

Neville (Lady Anne)

THE

1076.m.27

HISTORY

OF

LADY ANNE NEVILLE,

SISTER TO THE

GREAT EARL OF WARWICK:

IN WHICH ARE INTERSPERSED

MEMOIRS OF THAT NOBLEMAN,

AND THE

PRINCIPAL CHARACTERS

OF THE

AGE IN WHICH SHE LIVED.

Humanum est errare.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. I.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR T. CADELL, IN THE STRAND,

M.DCC.LXXVI.

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TO HER GRACE

The Duchefs of KINGSTON.

M A D A M,

I Should not have presumed to intreat your GRACE's Permission to dedicate so trifling a Composition to a Lady in your exalted Station, had the Heroine of my Piece been unworthy your GRACE's Protection. The Lady I celebrate was, like yourself, nobly born — her Rank elevated — her Accomplishments, as your own, many and refined—the same amiable Disposition—the same Elegance of Manners — the same

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steady

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steady uncorrupted Soul, animated
both your Bosoms,

LADY Anne Neville always
held a respectable Place in the
great World, and was the Com-
panion and Confidante of a Queen
—of Margaret of Anjou, famed
for more than female Wisdom
and Magnanimity.

HER Beauty and great Quali-
fications gained her the Love and
Respect of a worthy Nobleman,
whose elevated Sentiments were
apparent in the Attention he paid
to her Happiness: Who knew the
real Value of her Heart, and gave
every

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every Proof of the high Estimation he held her in.

HERE, it is unnecessary to point out, how nearly Lady Anne's Situation resembles your GRACE's. Your late much lamented Lord (whose Worth needs not my feeble Pen to perpetuate it), by an unfeigned Tenderness whilst living, and by munificent Bequests when his Protection should be withdrawn, has shewn his Esteem and Affection for you, and publicly avowed his high Sense of your GRACE's Merit.

HOWEVER the Malice of interested Persons might for a while
A 2 disturb

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disturb the Serenity of your Mind, yet Desert and Justice will at length triumph.—Though Comic Geniuses indulge their Wit at the Expence of Truth, it serves only to make your Virtues more conspicuous. — Your GRACE may look down from the Eminence, to which your Goodness of Heart has raised you, and with Tranquility, the Result of Innocence, smile to see the envenomed Shafts fall harmless at your Feet.

THE Portrait I have drawn of Lady Anne is not without its Shades ; but can we find in Nature a perfect Character ? To err
is

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is human : However, where the Virtues greatly overbalance the Frailties; where Delicacy, Honour, Humanity and Truth, can be placed against venial Faults, let the latter be lost in the superior Brightness of the former: Could we look into the Hearts of all that form this Glorious Circle, and feed on royal Smiles, how few should we find who would not feel their Censures, in some Degree, rebound, and receive from a faithful Monitor within as just, though perhaps not similar, Accusations.

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SENSIBLE of the Necessity there will be for some powerful Protection to a Work, whose Author cannot boast of his former Labours, or an established Reputation, I have presumed to beg your GRACE would countenance it, assured that your Name will rescue it from Oblivion, and compensate for its little Merit.

I HAVE the Honour to be with
the greatest Respect,

Your GRACE's

Most obedient

and devoted Servant,

LONDON,
Oct. 13, 1775.

The AUTHOR.

INTRODUCTION.

LADY Anne Neville, Sister to the great Earl of Warwick, whose Memoirs I have attempted to write, was not more celebrated during the Age in which she lived, for the Elevation of her Birth, than for her Beauty, and the uncommon Share of female Accomplishments she was endowed with. The singular Incidents of her Life—her noble Sentiments—and the generous Principles she appears to have been actuated by—seem to deserve the Attention of the present Age. I doubt not but they will afford a rational Entertainment to those, whose exalted Minds can rise above the Restraints of Custom—to those who have Magnanimity enough to own, that in particular
 Instances,

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Instances, and on some trying Occasions, an exact Conformity to Laws and Usages may be dispensed with—and can make proper Allowances for the Deviations of a Heart formed by Nature extremely susceptible of tender Impressions. I mean not those transient ones, which Beauty alone may kindle, and which are kept alive by Fancy—That Tie in which the Heart has no Share, formed perhaps by Vanity, Curiosity, or Caprice, and easily dissolved—I mean not that Somewhat, too often miscalled Love, but that tender Sensation, which is founded upon a secret Correspondence of Sentiment, and built on reciprocal Esteem;—those exquisitely refined Feelings, which tend not only to the Gratification of the Passions, but such as the highest sensual Enjoyments cannot reach, and serve only to promote—an Union of
Souls

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Souls—a Source of internal, heart-felt Felicity, to which we are ready at any Time to sacrifice every other Satisfaction—Such was the Passion that filled the Breast of my Heroine, ennobled her Mind, and raised her above her Sex.

I EXPECT not the Approbation of those good Sort of People, who calm and cold in Sentiment, have either forgotten the Heighday of the Blood, or never felt its Influence. And probably I shall only excite the Censures of those to whom Nature has dealt out her Favours with a sparing Hand; and who, thereby secure from Temptations, have never deviated from the beaten Track of Life—For such I write not.

THE Generous and Humane will view with Indulgence, Frailties which were compensated in some Measure, by
great

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great Goodness of Heart, and rare Accomplishments. They will recollect, that the Age, in which Lady Anne, lived was characterized by a Propensity to Arms and Gallantry; and that the Ladies were then taught to consider their Approbation and Smiles as the Reward of superior Excellence. Let it also be observed, that the Persons who successively engaged her Heart, were of the highest Rank—renowned for their Valour—and possessed of every Qualification that could render them agreeable. Supremely blest are they to whose Union both Cupid and Hymen have mutually assisted; but to ingenuous and liberal Minds, these peculiar Circumstances will be a sufficient Vindication of my Heroine; and teach my fair Readers, while they blame her Conduct, to drop the softening Tear to her Distress.

THE

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THE Design of a particular History is to relate the Actions of one Person; but the elevated Situation of the Lady whose Life I have written, makes her so connected with the general Events of the Reigns in which she lived, that it is with Difficulty I have confined myself to those which immediately relate to her; however, I have been careful to avoid introducing any Person, or recounting any Event, that does not in some Degree concern Lady Anne, or her Brother.

I ACKNOWLEDGE myself greatly indebted to Monsieur L'Abbé Prevôt for many Incidents of my Heroine's Life; and have generally followed his Account of them, though in some Instances he has varied from accepted Traditions. For this, the Obscurity of the English History, during the Wars
between

xii INTRODUCTION.

between the two Roses, may be justly pleaded as an Excuse: But here they are unimportant, as they equally tend to support my principal Design; which is, to inculcate Humanity, and that Charity, which at once teaches us to distinguish between the Errors and Vices of Mankind, and induces us to treat the former with Lenity and Candour

THE

THE
HISTORY

OF

LADY ANNE NEVILLE.

NEVER did the English Nation shine with greater Lustre, than during the Reign of Henry the Fifth; a Prince possessed of every Endowment of Mind and Body, necessary to form a great Man. Tall and majestick of Stature, he seemed born to command. Strong and robust — expert in all military Exercises — inured to Hardships

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and patiently bearing them — he set an Example to his Troops of Moderation and Constancy. Notwithstanding some Irregularities in his Youth, he no sooner mounted the Throne, than he became temperate, just, and truly pious; serving as a Model for his Subjects in general to form their Conduct by. But these great Qualifications could not secure him from an early Death. Just as he was on the Point of adding the Crown of France to his own, and thereby deservedly reigning Monarch of an extended Empire, he fell a Sacrifice to a sudden Disease. By employing his last Hours in giving Directions to the Nobles around him for the Extension of his Conquests;

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 3

quests, whilst he beheld his Diffolution approach with the greatest Composure and Firmness of Mind, he compleated the Character of a Hero.

HIS Son Henry the Sixth, then only a Child about Eight Months old, was committed to the Care of his Uncles, the Dukes of Bedford and Gloucester, who possessed many of the noble Qualities of their deceased Brother. Whilst the Affairs of the Nation were left to their Management, they continued in a prosperous State: But after some Years, the Duke of Bedford being dead, Divisions in the Council arose, and the Duke of Gloucester found all his Plans

B 2

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circumvented by the Cardinal of Winchester. This haughty Prelate was more calculated for the Cabinet than for the Church : A Descendant of the House of Lancaster, and nearly related to the King, he could not bear to find in the Duke a Superior, but aspired to the Protectorship during the King's Minority. From hence arose continual Disputes, which in the End proved fatal to the Kingdom.

As the young Prince grew up, he gave Proofs of inheriting some of his Father's good Qualifications, such as his Love of Justice, Temperance and Piety ; but those that more particularly constitute the
Warrior

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Warrior and the King he was entirely destitute of. Endowed with Honour, Virtue, and Religion, he wished always to promote the Welfare of his Subjects; but diffident of himself, he chose rather to follow the Advice of others. This Easiness of Disposition made him a Dupe to evil Counsellors, and often drew him in to give a Sanction to their selfish Schemes. With the best Intentions he was ever involved in Troubles; and having first lost the Kingdom his God-like Sire had won for him, he suffered that Crown which devolved to him by Inheritance, to be snatched from his Head. Henry thus lived an Instance, that though Prudence, Good Nature, Tempe-

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rance, and Piety may be the only Virtues necessary in private and domestick Life, yet Penetration, Justice, Valour, and Resolution must be added to compleat the regal Character.

AMONG the Nobles that surrounded Henry's Throne, was Richard Neville, a younger Son of Ralph Earl of Westmoreland. He had acquired the Title of Earl of Salisbury, by marrying the only Daughter and Heirefs of Thomas Montague, who having commanded the English Army with great Reputation in France, was slain during the famous Siege of Orleans. The Earl being descended by the Female Line from Henry
the

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the Second, the Blood of the Plantagenets ran in his Veins; which added to his Bravery, his Prudence, and native Dignity rendered him worthy so rich and noble a Lady. His high Birth, immense Estate, and great Qualifications gave him not more Consequence, than his numerous deserving Offspring. His four Sons had their Deserts rewarded by the highest Honours the King could bestow upon them. Richard the eldest (who, as his Father had done by those of Salisbury, enjoyed the Honours and Estates of the House of Warwick, with the sole Heiress) rendered himself famous by his Bravery and military Skill, and acquired the Title of the Great Earl of Warwick.

wick. His second Son, created for his Merit Marquis of Montague, often signalized himself in the Service of the House of York. Thomas the Third was slain at the Battle of Wakefield, bravely fighting in the same Cause : And George the Youngest being bred to the Church, attained the highest Dignities in it, the Archbishoprick of York, and Chancellorship of England.

Lady Anne, the singular Incidents of whose Life I shall endeavour to relate, was the eldest of five Daughters, who were all married equal to their Birth and Expectations.—I shall pass over in Silence the early Part of
my

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my Heroine's Life, and suppose it spent in the Acquisition of every noble and polite Qualification befitting her Rank. To a Face that might have vied with Hebe's, or the more ripened Beauties of the Queen of Love; — a Person elegantly formed — and every Endowment which Nature, when most profuse, could give — were added an exquisite Sensibility. Charms so alluring, joined to a susceptible Heart, led her into Situations that may not be strictly warrantable; few under such Circumstances can combat with Success the Power of Love, that sympathetic generous Passion which few Hearts can

blow soft B 5 a to feel,

feel, and which it is not in the Power of Language to express.

THE earliest Accounts I can find of her Life mention, that she was married at the Age of Fifteen, to a Gentleman of the Name of Neville; a Branch of the Westmoreland Family; and consequently nearly related to her. This being altogether a prudential Match, it could not be expected to be a happy one. Lady Anne found the Affection of her Husband so tainted with Jealousy, that it rendered her Life insupportable. Sensible of her Attractions, and doubting not but if he exposed her to the Gallantries of a Court, she would engage

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engage universal Admiration, he hurried her to his Castle in the North, and secreted her from the Eyes of the World; guarding his golden Fruit with all the Watchfulness of a Dragon. His Tyranny made such an Impression on her Mind, that her Health visibly declined; and the continual Anxiety she hourly experienced from his jealous Fears, would have brought her to the Grave, had not the Earl, her Father, during a Visit he paid her, perceived the Alteration. Her faded Beauty, and the Want of Brilliancy in those Eyes that used to enliven every Beholder, could not escape the Notice of a fond Parent: Some Observations

he made, partly betrayed the Secret, and by Degrees he prevailed on Lady Anne to acknowledge the Justice of his Suspicions. Resentment at this ungenerous Treatment of his Daughter made him search for Means to bring about a Separation. Their near Degree of Consanguinity, which had not been properly guarded against by a Dispensation from the Church, furnished him with a Pretext which he improved, and on which he regularly procured a Divorce. It was now that her Husband became sensible of her Value, and the Abuse of his Power : Her Loss so affected him that he fell a Sacrifice to his Vexation, and atoned for the
many

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many sad Hours he had caused her to pass, by a lingering and untimely Death.

It cannot be supposed that Lady Anne, young as she was, felt any Regret at being disunited from a Man that had buried her Charms in a Solitude, and debarred her from those Pleasures her Age and Station demanded. Released from her Confinement, her Health was soon recovered, and her Bloom restored. To make amends for the Loss of so much Time, thus imbittered by Jealousy, she launched into the gay World, and appeared at Court with all the Lustre of Youth and Beauty,

at

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at liberty to form a new Connection.

YOUNG Henry had at this Time attained his eighteenth Year; a youthful Monarch's Court could not be without Splendour. The Wars in France had produced a Race of Heroes. The glorious Deeds of Edward the Black Prince, and their late invincible Henry, had raised so great a Spirit of Emulation amongst the English Nobles, that no Age can produce Examples of greater Heroism. Bravery and Gallantry ever go Hand in Hand; the Warriors always found Leisure to single out some beauteous Fair, by whom inspired they braved Death and every

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every Danger; and to whom they dedicated the Glory they had won. The frequent Tournaments which were then held, gave them Opportunities of making this Attachment known to the Goddeses they adored, who did not blush to shew their Acceptance of the favoured Knights, by rewarding their Services with some public Token of regard.

THE Duke of Gloucester still gallant, and having lately lost his Wife, could not withstand the Force of Lady Anne's Charms; though the Warmth of his Youth was abated, he found himself susceptible of Emotions that must have been excited even in
the

the Breast of frozen Age. The Diffentions between the Duke and the Cardinal were now at their Height; but he still retained a great Deal of Power, and was universally respected. He was a Prince equally qualified for the Field or the Council; and graced by every noble Endowment*, set off

* The following Instance of the Duke of Gloucester's Penetration, is thought worthy of Record by Sir Thomas More; and in those unlearned Ages, when the Military Acquirements engrossed the whole Study of the Nobility, it was esteemed an extraordinary Proof of the Quickness of his Wit, and the Freedom of his Mind from Credulity or Superstition. Whilst he attended the King his Nephew on a Pilgrimage to St. Alban's, (for frequent Pilgrimages were reckoned an essential Part of Religion by that pious Prince) a Beggar pretended that he had sud-

off by an extensive Knowledge of
the Sciences; had he been more
of a scholar and more of a Master

— and so on. A doubt
denly obtained his Sight by touching the
Shrine of St. Alban, notwithstanding he had
been born blind. This Miracle was soon
noised abroad, and reached the Ears of the
King: Henry, naturally credulous, ordered
the Man to be brought before him, that he
might receive a Confirmation of it from his
own Lips. The Duke of Gloucester, whose
Sentiments were more liberal, and whose
Reason was more unclouded, presently sus-
pected some Fallacy: To be convinced of it,
he asked the Beggar if he had been really
blind from his Birth? The Man assured him
that he had been always so, and that now
through the Goodness of God and St. Alban
he could perfectly see. "Tell me, then,"
said the Duke, "what is the Colour of my
Gown." He readily answered, "that it
was Scarlet;" and in the same Manner
distinguished the Colour of the Dresses be-
longing to the whole Company. "Impostor,"
said the Duke, "if thou hadst in Truth been

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Master of his Passions, or less ambitious and haughty, he would not have given his Enemies so much Advantage over him. — Tho' Decency obliged the Duke to suspend the Completion of his Designs till the customary Time of Mourning was expired, yet such was his Impatience, that it did not prevent his acquainting the

“ born blind, and thy Sight only bestowed
“ on thee by Heaven a few Hours ago, as
“ thou hast affirmed, how is it possible thou
“ shouldst be able in so short a Time to know
“ the Difference of Colours, and to de-
“ nominate with such Exactness the va-
“ rious Tinctures of our Vests?” Then, in-
stead of giving him a Reward, which as the
Favourite of St. Alban he expected to re-
ceive, the Duke ordered him to be sent to
the House of Correction.

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the Earl of Salisbury with the Inclination he had for his Daughter. The Uncle of the King, and Ruler of the Nation, could not sue in vain. His great and acknowledged Merit, and his extensive Power, procured him the Consent of the Earl, and the Approbation of all his Friends. It was however thought prudent to keep this Determination a Secret even from Lady Ann herself, till it could be publickly avowed; which the recent Death of the Duchess rendered at present improper. However, the Duke frequently visited her with a View to his Marriage, and every Hour found new Reasons to confirm his Intentions. Mistress there-
fore

fore of her Heart, and a Stranger to the Views of the Duke of Gloucester, she deserved not Reproach if she received him only as a Friend of her Family, and saw not in him the intended Husband. Before he was at Liberty to make a Declaration of his Love, her Affections were unhappily engaged; unhappily, I say, as they were fixed on a Man who had it not in his Power to make her an honourable Return,

EDMUND, Brother to the Duke of Somerset, (and whom, as the Title soon after devolved to him by the Death of his Brother, I shall in future stile the Duke) at that Time one of the principal
Ornaments

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Ornaments of Henry's Court, engrossed her whole Heart. His Age rather exceeded hers; but he was in the Prime of Life, notwithstanding he had been married several Years. Witty, engaging in Conversation, his Person unexceptionable, and not inferior in Point of Magnificence and Gallantry to any Nobleman of the Times; how could the Susceptibility of Lady Anne withstand such Attractions. At her Restoration to the World and Pleasure, the Duke had danced with her on the King's Birth-day; and was so captivated by her Beauty, that forgetting the Ties which bound him to another, he surrendered up his Heart to her.

Lady

Lady Anne in Return beheld the Duke with no unfavourable Eye; and as the Restraint she had so lately been freed from, gave her a greater Relish for Liberty; she received his Vows without Regret, not considering the Impossibility of his performing them with Honour.

THOUGH the Word Sympathy appears mysterious to many, the Offspring only of the Poet's Brain, yet Experience every Day convinces us, that there is a certain Attachment we feel at first Sight, and though we can scarcely account for the Impulse, find ourselves obliged to obey its Power. This Affection is visibly distinguished

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guished from every other Kind of Inclination; for though Lady Anne was surrounded by a great Number of accomplished Cavaliers, who took all imaginable Pains to touch her Heart; some of whom she esteemed; and pleased with their Addresses, would not perhaps have disliked an Union with them, yet none could inspire her with that inexplicable Sentiment, but Edmund; who kindled in her Bosom, even at first Sight, a Sensation entirely new; and which by its magick Influence so wholly overpowered her Reason, that she became capable of sacrificing her Reputation and every Punctilio to it.

THE

AN Opportunity which the Lovers wished for, they soon accidentally found in those beautiful-Gardens belonging to the Palace at Sheen, that lie on the verdant Banks of the Thames. There, as Lady Anne was the next Day walking, lost in the Contemplation of what had passed the preceding Evening, and her Thoughts totally engrossed by Love, she left the Company that came with her, and carelessly wandered into an artificial Wilderness; making her Way through Thickets of Roses, Jessamines and Honeysuckles, so artfully interwoven, that they almost obstructed her Passage. In this delightful Retirement which seemed dedicated to the Cyprian Queen,

Queen, the first Object that recalled her Attention, was the Person whose dear Idea employed her Contemplations. The Duke had chosen the same Spot to indulge his Melancholy; and was then lying on the Bank of a small Rivulet that meandered through the Grass. Here for some Hours had he been recollecting every bewitching Look, every graceful Motion, and every melodious Word that had captivated his Heart; at the same Time lamenting the Cruelty of his Fate, that had placed such Bars betwixt him and Happiness. Thus lost in Thought, he scarcely turned his Eyes to see who approached; but what were his Raptures when he

beheld the lovely Lady Anne before him. He instantly emerged from those pleasing Reveries, in which the Idea of his beauteous Mistress had held him as it were buried in a sweet Oblivion, and throwing himself at her Feet, in that pathetic Disorder of Spirits which constitutes the true Eloquence of Love, breathed forth his Sighs. The sparkling Fire that glowed in his Eyes communicated itself to her Breast; and she now for the first Time, felt the Power of Love. The solitude of the place, the vernal Breeze, the Fragrance of the Flowers, all conspired to aid her Lover's Views, and like Dido and Eneas on a similar accidental meeting, she too soon

soon forgot the Ties of Honour, and all the Glories of her Birth. From this Time they attended only to the Dictates of Love; a happy Enthusiasm took Possession of their Souls, and seemed utterly to efface every former Idea. The only Restraint they imposed on themselves was, to conceal their Tenderneſs from all the World.


THIS Correspondence was ſucceſsfully carried on, till the Time expired, when the Duke of Glouceſter was at Liberty to ſpeak to her of Marriage. The Commands of the Earl her Father, obliged her to liſten to the Duke with Complacence, and to receive his Propoſals with Reſpect; but the

Moment she was released from his Solicitations, she flew to her Lover, and on his Bosom eased in some Degree her labouring Heart, of the Apprehensions this unexpected Courtship had occasioned.

How shall I paint the Terrors they experienced from this alarming Incident. The Fear of a Separation, whilst yet their Love was in its Zenith, gave them unspeakable Torture; but when after a long Consultation, Passion began to give way to Reason, and they were able to listen to the Dictates of Prudence, they mutually acknowledged, that it was not fit a Daughter of the Earl of Salisbury should live unmarried, and grow
old

old without an Establishment. This being allowed, they brought themselves by degrees to own, that the Duke's offers should be accepted, as they could not have fixed on any Person more proper to answer every Wish. His exalted Station would raise Lady Anne to a Rank above her highest Expectations, and give her a Precedence before the rest of the Nobility, as Wife of the presumptive Heir to the Throne. To this another Argument might be added, and which they felt the full Force of; that the Duke was not of an Age to give any uneasiness to a Lover.

WHILST the Duke of Gloucester had concealed his Intentions from



Lady Anne, he suffered her to treat him with Coldness and Indifference; but when he had avowed his Designs, and entered on a regular Courtship, he could not behold with Unconcern, her Coyness, and constant Desire of shunning him. He frequently went to her Apartments, but could never gain a satisfactory Account how she passed her Time. He often traced her to those Places where it was probable she might be, but could never find her there. This raised Suspensions in his Mind, which were soon confirmed by the Emissaries he appointed to watch her.

THE Reluctance with which Lady Anne had always received
his

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his Addresſes, convinced him there was a favoured Rival that obſtruded his Views. Jealouſy and Revenge took immediate Poſſeſſion of his Breſt, and he determined to ſacrifice him to his injured Love, when diſcovered. The Orders he gave thoſe whom his great Power had made ſubſervient to him, were ſo poſitive, that nothing but the Precautions Somerſet always took to conceal their Interviews, could have ſecured him from Detection.

NOTWITHSTANDING theſe Diſquietudes, the Duke of Glouceſter felt the Power of Lady Anne's Charms, and could not be happy without making her his own: He

resolved therefore to gratify the Desires of his Heart, not doubting but that the Ties of Marriage would secure to him the Possession of the Lady's Person, and that his Authority would at least keep her within the Bounds which he had a Right to prescribe.

ON the Eve of the Day appointed for the Celebration of the Nuptials, the two Lovers agreed on an Interview: to give every Addition to a Meeting that must dissolve their Souls into a mournful Tendernefs, they fixed it at the Place where they had first indulged their mutual Wishes. The nearer the fatal Hour approached, in which Edmund was to give up
to

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to the Possession of another, the Person he loved with so much Fervour, the more he felt the Force of his Love, and the Wounds given to his Delicacy ; their Parting therefore was deferred till the last Moment, and with the utmost Reluctance they tore themselves even then, from each others Arms. Somerset had prudently concealed his Person under a Disguise, or probably that Hour had been his last ; for the Duke of Gloucester being informed that Lady Anne was gone from Home, had ordered her Steps to be traced. His Emissaries returned in the Afternoon with Information, that she had been observed in the Gardens of Sheen, and a Person with her,

who from some Circumstances appeared to be a Lover. Enraged to the highest Degree, he immediately ordered his Horse, and set out for the Place, attended by a Number of faithful Servants, determined to sacrifice both with his own Hand.

By the Time he arrived at Sheen it was dark; when he was informed that the Lovers had returned to London in one of the Boats that regularly went from thence every Tide. With a Fury heightened by Disappointment, and with redoubled Speed, he hastened back, in Hopes of surprizing them as they came out of the Boat, having

ing

ing previously enquired the Stairs at which it generally landed.

PART of this Information only was true, for Lady Anne alone, had gone into the Boat ; Somerset who had a Horse in readiness, after having seen his lovely Mistress embark, set out to give Directions to a faithful Servant who was his Confidant in this Intrigue, to meet her at a Distance from the River, and to conduct her Home. But in this he was anticipated by the Duke of Gloucester, who arrived at the Wharf long before the Boat. As soon as he was informed that it was near Land, he rushed like a Tyger to the Shore, not doubting but that the Prey he


waited for, was just within his Reach. The extreme Darkeness of the Night prevented his distinguishing those whose Blood he thirsted for, from four or five other persons who were also in the Boat. This new Obstacle augmented if possible his Rage, and made him form an instant Resolution, which one would imagine could only be generated in a savage Breast : Whereas the Duke in other Instances, had never shewn himself of a sanguinary Disposition, nor could his Enemies charge him with any Acts of Violence. But to what Excess of Cruelty will not those dangerous Passions Jealousy and Revenge, sometimes

sometimes suddenly carry a Heart inflamed by them.

As the Darknefs of the Night would not permit him to separate thofe that had offended him, from the innocent Paffengers, he refolved they fhould all fhare the fame Fate, rather than that the Victims of his Refentment fhould efcape. He had no fooner formed this Plan, than he gave his Orders to the Dependants that furrounded him, (who in thofe Days of Vafalage were always ready blindly to obey the Commands of their Lord,) and leaped into the Boat. The firft Object that he was able to diftinguifh, being a Woman who appeared drefled genteely enough

enough to persuade him it was Lady Anne, he plunged his Poniard into her Breast, and at the same Time uttered some Reproaches that alarmed the Person for whom the Blow was intended. The Voice of the Duke of Gloucester, which she knew in a Moment, and the dreadful Confusion caused by his Attendants, in rushing on the Watermen, and the affrighted Passengers, explained to her at once her Situation. Notwithstanding the violent Perturbation of her Mind, Lady Anne retained so much Reflection as to convince her, that it was better to trust herself to the Care of the River Deities, than await a certain Death: Therefore before the Affas-

fins



kins could clear their Way to her as she sat in the further Part of the Boat, she threw herself unperceived into the Water, and was carried away by the Stream. The Duke and his Servants in the mean Time finished their cruel Work; which their Numbers, and the Surprize of the unhappy Victims arising from so sudden an Attack, soon enabled them to do. Then having sunk the Boat, and prevented the mangled Bodies from floating by fastening Stones to them, he thought himself sure of escaping Detection, and returned to his House satiated with Revenge. Such a Transaction could not pass unnoticed in our Days, by the Crouds, that from the Increase

crease of Commerce, frequent the Sides of the Thames. But when we consider the amazing Power of the Nobles of that Age, the little Estimation they held the Lives of the lower Orders of Mankind in when placed in competition with their designs, and when we also consider that the City of London was infinitely less extensive and populous than it is at present the Appearance of Improbability will vanish; and whilst we credit the Relation; we shall be led to rejoice that we are born in happier Times.

THE Duke of Gloucester being the second Person in the Kingdom, and the first of these potent Nobles,

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 41

Nobles, had nothing to fear should Detection ensue, either from his Enemies, or the Laws.

HE could not conceal from the Earl of Salisbury, the Catastrophe of his Daughter, or those convincing Proofs of a shameful Passion, that had urged him to so hasty and compleat a Revenge. The Earl felt for the Honour of his Family, and acquiesced in the Means that had been used to expunge the Disgrace ; agreeing at the same Time that her Death should be attributed to some natural Cause.

BUT how shall I describe the Anxiety of Somerset : His Servant
being

being returned from the Street adjoining to the River, where he had waited much beyond the necessary Time without meeting Lady Anne, he set out in Search of her himself; but all his Enquiries were ineffectual. After a sleepless Night, they were renewed in the Morning, as far as Prudence, and the Secresy required, would allow; but with no greater Success. When the Report of her Death reached him, he could not give that Credit to it which the Rest of the World did. The Improbability of a Boat and so many Persons being lost in a River without any Remains, convinced him there was some Treachery

chery in the Case. The more he reflected on the Circumstances, considered the Time of his Mistress's Disappearance, with the Possibility of their Amour being discovered by a watchful and powerful Rival, the more he was satisfied that some horrid and private Steps had been taken to put an End to their Happiness.

FROM that Moment he harboured in his Breast an implacable Hatred against the Duke of Gloucester; and without divulging the Cause, he ranked himself amongst his Enemies. This kept him from sinking under his Grief; but he was so far overcome by it, that

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that quitting the Pleasures of the Court, and the Clangor of Arms, in which he had always delighted, he retired into the Country to indulge his Melancholy, and to live on the Recollection of his past Happiness. But even this was in some Measure denied him, as his Connections obliged him to disguise the Feelings of his Heart, and to suppress his Sighs. Thus secluded from the World, he lived for some Years an Example, that neither Time nor Absence can ever totally eradicate—a true and sympathetic Love.

LADY Anne having thrown herself into the River, found herself

self supported by her * Farding-
dingale (which constituted Part
of

* The Dress of the Ladies of that Age, would appear preposterous to those of our Century; at least, without Partiality or Prejudice, they may pronounce them cumbersome and unweildy, as a Fardingale constituted a Part of it. The following Description of an uncommon one, used by the Men, is handed down to us, and thus recorded in Mr. Walpole's Noble Authors:—" In those Days
" it not only required great bodily Strength
" to support the Weight of their Armour;
" their very Luxury of Apparel for the
" Drawing-room was equally burthensome.
" In the Reign of Henry the Seventh, at
" the Marriage of Prince Arthur, a Noble-
" man appeared in a Gown of Purple Velvet,
" adorned with Pieces of Gold, so thick and
" massive, that, exclusive of the Silk and
" Furs, it was valued at a Thousand Pounds.
" About his Neck he wore a Collar of solid
" Silver, weighing Eight Hundred Pounds
" in Nobles."

of the female Apparel of that Age) and carried down the Stream. Whilst thus she floated, expecting every Moment to be swallowed up by the Vortex at the Bridge; the Captain of a Norman Vessel, who fortunately happened at that Time to be coming down the River in his Boat, discovered and snatched her from the horrid Gulph. Having conveyed her on board his Ship, which lay at a little Distance, he gave her every necessary Assistance, and soon restored her to her Senses, which such a Succession of Dangers had deprived her of. Her Dress and Mien convinced the Captain that the Person he had succoured was of an elevated Rank; this made him redouble

redouble his Affiduities, and offer her every Aid in his Power. With her Reason she recovered so much Presence of Mind, as to let nothing escape her that might make known her Birth and Adventure. A Moment's Reflection convinced her, that if she returned Home, she had every Thing to fear from the Duke of Gloucester's Resentment, and her Father's consequent Anger. Prudence therefore triumphed over Love; and notwithstanding the Pangs she was certain would attend a Separation from her Edmund, yet, prompted by her Anxiety for him, as well as by her own Fears, she determined to accept of the Captain's offered Assistance, and leave the Kingdom.

Kingdom. He luckily was to sail the next Morning, which favoured her Scheme, and removed every Apprehension of Discovery.

As she saw the British Shore lessen to her View, and the Distance from her Lover increase, her Tortures also increased : Showers of Tears incessantly watered her Cheeks, and with all the Tenderness natural to a Mind susceptible as hers was, she lamented their unfortunate Loves. But at length calling Reason to her Aid, she so far suppressed her Grief, as to consider of the Steps necessary to be pursued, when she could reach the Coast of France.

LADY

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 49

LADY Anne recollected that Margaret of Scotland had been sometime married to Lewis the Dauphin. This Princess was the Daughter of James the First, who was murdered in his Bed through the Villainy of the Earl of Athol his Uncle. He had married Joan, Sister of a late Duke of Somerset, and by that Alliance was distantly related to the Salisbury Family. Lady Anne had also during her Residence in Westmoreland, seen that Princess on a Tour she made to the Borders of England. These Considerations determined her to hasten to the French Court, and throw herself under Margaret's Protection.

AFTER having rewarded the Captain with a Ring of some Value, which she happened to have with her, the fair Exile proceeded on her Journey ; but was often retarded by the Precautions necessary to prevent being discovered by the English Troops, who yet had Possession of that Part of France where she landed.

LADY Anne met with a favourable Reception from the Dauphiness ; and having communicated the whole of her Story, omitting only what related to the Duke of Somerset, was received into her Train under a feigned Name, and her Secret so inviolably kept, that the Deception remained undif-

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LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 51

undiscovered during her Stay. Here she might have lived in Tranquility, as the Dauphiness strove, by every Act of Kindness, and Friendship, to make her Situation agreeable, had not the Wound that rankled in her Heart, prevented it; and the Remembrance of her absent Edmund banished Peace from her Breast.

THERE is no Doubt, but that her Charms and Merit attracted the Adoration of many of the gallant Knights that composed the young Dauphin's Court; but she remained insensible to all their Gallantries, and saw many a Lance shivered in Defence of her Beauty,

D 2

without

without repaying the Service with her Heart.

SHE had now enjoyed the Protection of the Dauphiness four Years, when Death robbed her of her Benefactress; this excellent Princess being carried off by a sudden Illness in the Flower of her Age. All France lamented her Loss; but those who had been about her Person, and were Witnesses to the Goodness of her Heart, the Sweetness of her Temper, and the Amiability of her Conduct, set no Bounds to their Grief.

LADY Anne Neville, or rather Miss Saunders (which was the Name

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 53

Name she assumed) whose Heart was fashioned by Nature to enjoy in the highest Degree the Delicacies of Love, and it's Sister Passion Friendship, felt in the severest Manner the untimely Stroke. In vain was every Consolation and Assistance offered her by the Nobility, who had observed the Regard of the Dauphiness for her; she remained inconsolable, till on a sudden she disappeared, and left the whole Court full of Concern and Amazement.

MARGARET of Anjou, lately married by Proxy to the King of England, was then on her Journey to that Kingdom. Lady Anne thought this a favourable

Opportunity of returning to her native Country, and under the Queen's Protection, to shelter herself from the Displeasure both of the Duke of Gloucester and her Father. Accordingly she left Challons in the private Manner abovementioned, and waiting at Abbeville till Margaret's Arrival, desired a private Audience. The Queen, prepossessed by the Accounts she received from her Attendants, of the Pensiveness that sat on the lovely Face of her fair Petitioner, and above all by her being an English Lady, a Native of that Country which was to be the place of her future Residence, readily gave Orders for her Admittance. Their conversation

sation, which continued two Hours, passed without Witnesses. The Ladies that accompanied Margaret could not penetrate into the Subject of it, but were surprized when Orders were given, that Miss Saunders should be admitted amongst those of the greatest Quality in her Retinue, and be treated with the utmost Care and Respect. Even the Earl of Suffolk, to whom the Queen was principally indebted for the Crown she was then going to take Possession of, and who on that Account enjoyed the greatest share of her Favour and Confidence, was a Stranger to her Reasons.

THE Truth was, that Margaret, a Princess of great Penetration, a daring Spirit, and unbounded Ambition, wished on her Arrival in England, to rescue the King out of the Hands of his Uncle the Duke of Gloucester. Henry having been brought up from his Infancy under his Inspection, had obeyed him as a Parent, till Submission was become habitual. But this Submission the Queen was determined to transfer from the Duke to herself, taking the Government of that Kingdom, which she had been informed her Husband was unable to manage, into her own Hands. Her Penetration in a Moment pointed out to her, the great Importance of
the

LADY ANNE NEVILLE 57

the Secrets she had learnt from Lady Anne, and she saw the Use she could make of them in the Ruin of her Enemy, for such she already esteemed the Duke of Gloucester.* He had always opposed the King's Marriage with her for many Reasons, which so good a Judge of Mankind, and the real Interests of his Country, was

D 5 not

* Notwithstanding the Duke of Gloucester's Disapprobation of his Nephew's Marriage with Margaret of Anjou, yet when it was solemnized, he resolved to pay her all the Honours due to the Queen of England. He accordingly met her on the Road, soon after she had landed, with a Train of Five Hundred Servants, all in one Livery, and that a very sumptuous one. BAUDIER. — This Account gives us some Idea of the Magnificence of the Times.

not at a Loss to bring against it. He urged as Objections, the Engagement the Nation had long been under to match their King with a Daughter of the Earl of Armagnac. He also pointed out the dishonourable, and disadvantageous Consequences, of giving up the Province of Maine, to René Duke of Anjou, Margaret's Father: Dishonourable, as instead of receiving a Dowry with his Queen, which every King had a right to expect as it proved that his Alliance was esteemed worthy and desirable, a valuable Country was to be exchanged for a haughty and ambitious Woman: Disadvantageous, as the Territory proposed to be given up, was the
Barrier

Barrier to Normandy, that ancient Appendage to the Crown of England ; which of course must fall into the Hands of the French. (For this Conjecture he had too good a Foundation, and a few Years proved the Truth of it.)

THESE Objections to the King's Union with Margaret, the Duke often urged in Council, but urged in vain. The Power of the Cardinal of Winchester, and the Earl of Suffolk, who were lately become Henry's Favourites, and had strictly united to oppose the Duke of Gloucester, overpowered all his Arguments, however just and unanswerable. Margaret had received Intelligence of this

Oppo-

Opposition to her; and being naturally overbearing and impatient of Controul, had laid the Plan for the Ruin of her Enemy, long before she reached England. The Application of Lady Anne, appeared to her the luckiest Incident that could have happened; as it would give her an Opportunity of adding a positive Proof of Murder, to the other Crimes she intended laying to his Charge. The Duke's Character in general was so inoffensive and unblameable, that he had acquired the Title of the good Duke of Gloucester; there needed therefore many well supported Accusations to make an Impression on the Minds of the King and the People,

ple, so as effectually to work his Overthrow.

As soon as Margaret had reached England, and the Hurry of her Marriage and Coronation was over; when she had leisure to attend to Business, and put in Execution the great Purposes of her Soul, she began to take the Steps she had premeditated for the Removal of the Duke. The first necessary Movement, was to secure as many of the Nobles to her Interest as possible. The Cardinal of Winchester and the Earl of Suffolk, it has been already observed, were devoted to her Will, as it coincided with their Opposition to the Minister.

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The Duke of Somerset, and the Earl of Salisbury, appeared the next in Consideration; and these she hoped to make her Friends by means of Lady Anne Neville. But this required a different Mode of Application. She saw by the Melancholy that hung on the Countenance of the Duke, that the Wound his Mistress had made so long ago in his Heart, was not yet healed. He was but lately returned from the Country, where he had continued ever since the Disappearance of Lady Anne, endeavouring to cure himself of an unhappy Passion, and to attain a philosophic Apathy. All his great Qualifications were neglected; his well-known Valour and Conduct

Conduct in War lay buried in a Solitude; and he took no other Share in the Business of the Nation than what his Rank obliged him.

SEVERAL interesting Events now called him again to Court, but not to Pleasure. The Royal Marriage and Coronation required his Presence in London; but more particularly the Death of his Duchess, which happened about this Time. A more favourable Opportunity could not offer for Margaret to put a Scheme in Execution, which she knew would unite by the firmest Bonds two useful Persons to her Interest: For she was satisfied that the Discovery she

she was about to make, would be as agreeable to Lady Anne as to the Duke. The Queen accordingly sent for him one Day into her Closet, and began with lamenting that his Absence from Court, had so long deprived her of the Pleasure of rewarding his Services to the King, and of ranking him amongst her Friends. She then ingenuously laid open to him her Plan of rescuing her Husband from the Tyranny of the Duke of Gloucester, and of placing the Sceptre in his own Hands, as he was now arrived at an Age when he no longer needed a Governor or Director. She hinted that this Step would enable her, by making a proper Use of the King's Fondness

Fondness, to heap Favours on those who should contribute to the Completion of her Designs. Margaret added, that the Duke's Merit and Abilities having pointed him out as the principal Nobleman she could wish to gain over to her Party, she had in this open and ingenuous Manner laid before him her Plan, to which she begged his Aid; concluding, that to convince him she had not been unmindful of his Happiness, or neglected any Inducement to make him her Friend, she had brought with her to England, an Advocate that perhaps may have more Weight with him, than all the Honours she had in her Power to bestow.

THE

THE Duke heard her with Respect and Attention ; and already prejudiced against the Duke of Gloucester, to whose Account he placed the many Pangs he had felt for the Loss of his Mistress, would have willingly joined in the intended Vengeance upon him, had not that Stoicism and Dislike of the World, which had taken Possession of his Mind, induced him to return to his Solitude. But whilst he was hesitating whether to listen to the Dictates of Revenge, or Chagrin, a Person appeared that instantly banished every Doubt. At a Signal given by the Queen, a Door opened, and presented to the View of the astonished Somerset, his long-lost Mistress, lovely

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 67

lovely and kind as ever. The electric Spark in an Instant communicated itself to each Heart, and hurried on by the same secret Impulse, in a Moment they found themselves encircled in each other's Arms: Unawed even by the Presence of Majesty itself, they murmured out their Love, and seemed insensible to all around them. A thousand unanswered Questions dropped from the Tongue of the enraptured Edmund, who for a while unable to credit the Testimony of his Senses, believed it the Delusion of his Imagination, or the Appearance of some heavenly Visitant.

THOUGH

THOUGH the Queen beheld with Pleasure these Proofs of their mutual Affection, she now thought it Time to put a Stop to their Raptures, and restore them to Reason and Business. She was not herself insensible to Love, yet Ambition held the chief Place in her Mind ; and she reckoned that Time wasted, that was not employed in the Pursuit of it.

It was now unnecessary to re-iterate her Arguments ; one Glance of Lady Anne's Eye pleaded with more Eloquence the Cause of Margaret, than the best conceived Harangue could have done. However the Lovers were obliged to curb their Transports, and listen to

to the Terms the Queen expected should be agreed to, before she permitted them the Completion of their Happiness. She wisely concluded, that the only Way to quicken the Duke's Revenge, and to insure the Fall of her Rival in Power, would be to debar him from seeing his Mistress till the Design was compleated. This Preliminary he was forced, though reluctantly, to comply with. It was then further agreed, that to deceive the World, and prevent every Suspicion, the Duke should appear to be upon ill Terms with the Queen, till he had, with the utmost Secresy, secured all his Friends to her Interest. Then he was boldly to pull off the Mask,
—stand

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—stand forth the avowed Opposer of the Duke of Gloucester, — and lay before the Parliament the Complaints of the Nation against him.

THESE were the Articles of their Treaty, and which Somerset subscribed to with the greatest Readiness, as so rich a Reward was to await the Performance of them.

AT this Time Love alone engrossed all his Thoughts; but when he began to taste the Sweets of Government, and those flattering Honours which the Smiles of Princes diffuse around them, Ambition shared his Heart.

MAR-

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 71

MARGARET being so far successful, proceeded to the proposed Enlargement of her Plan, and concerted Measures with the Duke for bringing over the Earl of Salisbury. She saw the Advantages that would arise from procuring such a powerful Supporter to her Cause; but this Nobleman was so closely connected with the Duke of Gloucester, that she almost despaired of being able to detach him from his Interest. There appeared no great Probability of succeeding with the Earl, through the Mediation of a Daughter whom he could so readily give up; and whose Murder he could leave unrevenge'd. But to the sanguine
Ex-

Expectations of a Lover nothing appears difficult; Somerset undertook to restore Lady Anne to the Favour of her Father, and at the same Time endeavour to draw him from his present Political Connections. The Moment his perturbed Spirits would permit him to connect his Ideas, which this unexpected Meeting with his Mistress had dispersed, his lately recovered Freedom struck his Remembrance; and a Resolution to make that Liberty subservient to his Love, followed close upon it. He doubted not but that the Earl of Salisbury would approve of his honourable Intentions, especially when he knew that he himself had occasioned

sioned the jealous Suspicions of the Duke of Gloucester, and saw his Readiness to atone for it by making Lady Anne Duchess of Somerset. 'Tis true, his Hopes were not ill-founded; as his Rank was so elevated, his Power so great, and his Merit so universally acknowledged; he had the greatest Reason to expect his Proposals would meet a ready Acceptance. But in this he was disappointed; for he had to deal with a Man that seldom gave up his Prepossessions, or receded from the Resolutions he had taken. Interest had attached him to the Duke of Gloucester; to him was he indebted for the Promotion of his Sons; and nothing but Pro-

mises of higher Advancement for himself and Family could shake his apparent Steadiness: Apparent, I say, as the Mind that is tainted by Ambition, that unsatisfied Passion, however it may boast of its Disinterestedness, and Power to withstand Corruption, will ever yield to greater Honours, and more lucrative Employments.

THESE Offers were imprudently neglected, as Somerset built all his Hopes on the Earl's parental Affection. He waited on him, and put an End to that Ceremony and Complaisance, which at his Introduction was substituted in the Place of Cordiality, by acquainting him, that he had
received

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received certain Intelligence of his Daughter's being alive, and in Health. The Surprize this Information threw the Earl into, giving Somerset a Prospect of Success, he proceeded with the History of her Misfortunes, described their mutual Attachment, and endeavoured to extenuate their Crime by alledging Lady Anne's invincible Dislike to the Duke of Gloucester, and his own Want of Power at that Time to give honourable Proofs of his Affection. He then added, without letting him know of her Return to England, that she had been under the Protection of the Dauphiness of France; where her Behaviour had been unexceptionable, and

only in one Instance, had she ever done any thing to excite his Anger. He then concluded, with begging Permission of the Earl to prove the Sincerity of his Love by making her his Wife.

LORD Salisbury, who inherited a great Share of the Haughtiness of the Times, scarcely permitted Somerset to make an End; but broke out into the severest Reproaches against his Daughter, expressed his Resentment at her Treatment of the Duke of Gloucester, and protested he only wished to see her again, that he might punish her for it. Any other but the Father of his Mistress would have roused the Duke's Resentment

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Resentment by such a Reception ; instead of which, it called forth every Argument that promised to soothe the Earl ; but he remained inflexible, and Somerset returned to give the Queen an Account of his ill Success.

LADY Anne felt the Severity of her Parent's Reproaches, and lamented the Loss of his Affections, but consoled herself with having found her Lover true and faithful, and in being under her Sovereign's Protection.

THE Duke on his Return was told, that the King and Queen were attended by the Duke of Gloucester ; the Plan of his De-

struction being now ripe for Execution, he boldly stood forth, and as a Prelude to an Impeachment before his Peers, delivered many Articles of Accusation against him. The Duke, conscious of his Innocence remained unmoved, seeming to defy the Malice of his Enemies, till he heard the Name of Lady Anne Neville, and the Charge of an Attempt to murder her, in which many Lives were really lost. Though the Circumstances relating to it were not particularly specified, yet the bare mention of the Fact, was sufficient to throw him into the utmost Confusion. But convinced that he had buried every
Proof

Proof of his Guilt with the Transaction ; and aided by an admirable Presence of Mind, he immediately recovered himself, protesting as he had done by every other Article, that this also was a false and cruel Imputation.

THE King, from whose Breast the Respect he had ever preserved for his Uncle was not quite eradicated, would have been satisfied with these Asseverations, and have buried the Accusations in Oblivion ; but the Inveteracy of the Queen and Somerset were not so soon appeased. The latter assured his Majesty, that with his Permission, he would in a few

Minutes bring unanswerable
Proofs of the Duke's Culpability.

HAVING received a gracious
Nod of Approbation from the
Queen, (for Henry seemed irreso-
lute) he withdrew, and instant-
ly returned leading in Lady Anne
dressed in all the Habiliments of
Woe. She threw herself at her
Sovereign's Feet, and in a con-
cise, but pathetic Manner, de-
scribed the Duke's Cruelty, her
miraculous Preservation, and her
Escape into France. At the Con-
clusion, she gave as a Reason for
not making this Application be-
fore, that she had been restrained
by the great Power of the Person
she was thus obliged to accuse;
but

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 81

but hearing, whilst she was under the Protection of the Dauphiness, that his Majesty had taken the Reins of Government into his own Hands, she had embraced the earliest Opportunity of imploring Redress from a Prince renowned for his Humanity and Equity.

DURING this Speech the Minister stood absorbed in Amazement. Though the Beauties of Lady Anne were now full-blown, and her Person had acquired some Refinement from a few Years Absence, yet the Impression she had formerly made on the Duke's Mind was not erased. He instantly recollected her, and

at the same Time remembered to what a Degree of Cruelty his jealous Rage had impelled him: Conviction therefore prevented him from making any Defence, and he remained silent. The King reading in that Silence an Acknowledgment of his Guilt, consented to give him up; and accordingly a Day was fixt for his Trial.

WHILST the Duke of Gloucester was in the Tower, and preparing for his Defence, Somerset revolved in his Thoughts every Device to facilitate his favourite Scheme—an Union with Lady Anne. As he knew it would be in vain to hope for that
Happiness,

Happiness, whilst her Father's Mind retained the Prejudices instilled into it by the Duke, he determined to endeavour, by promises of Lenity and every Argument he could make use of, to persuade that Prince publicly to retract his Aspersions. To this End he found means privately to visit him in his Confinement; and to make it the more secret, he chose the Hour of Midnight. His high Quality, and the Confidence of the Queen which he was known to enjoy, procured him a ready Admittance.

SOMERSET began with apologizing to the Duke for his Conduct, imputing it to the Duty

he owed his King and Country. He then acknowledged that he was the Person who had occasioned his jealous Fears, when he was on the Point of being united to Lady Anne ; but at the same Time he ascribed it to the Excess of his Passion, which he assured the Duke, knew no Bounds. Somerset continued to observe, that making the Lady's Frailties public, would answer no good End, whereas the Suppression of them, and the affording his Assistance to remove the Inveteracy of her Family, would induce both Lady Anne (whom he intended to make his Wife), and himself, to become his Advocates.

THE

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 85

THE Duke of Gloucester, who was in Bed, permitted his Rival to finish his Harangue ; but then gave way to his natural Haughtiness and Impetuosity. Furnished thus by his Opponent with Arms against himself, he doubted not but to be able to make the Designs of a Person so interested in his Fall, conspicuous to his Judges ; and at the same Time, alledge Lady Anne's confessed Infidelity as an Excuse for the Severity of her Treatment. His Joy was visible at this important Discovery, which supplied him with Proofs that otherwise he could never have been able to produce : This, added to the Insult of his Offers, and his Apprehensions
from

from the suspicious Time of Night, so far deprived him of his Reason and Reflection, that his Rage became unbounded. Then setting the Duke of Somerset and his Abettors at Defiance, he assured him, that as they had spared no Pains in order to destroy him by false Accusations, he in return should spare nothing that could be urged in his Defence.

SOMERSET, who equalled the Duke of Gloucester in Violence of Spirit, listened whilst he repeated these Resolutions in indignant Phrases; till inspired by a Wish to please the Queen and his Mistress, and worked up to the Top of his Bent, he threw himself

self upon the Bed, and with the Assistance of some of his Attendants, put an End to the Duke's Reproaches with his Life.

THUS fell the Duke of Gloucester, a Victim to Ambition and interrupted Love. It was generally supposed that the Favourite, Suffolk, was the Perpetrator of this horrid Deed ; the active Part he had taken in making Margaret Queen, and in giving up the Province of Maine at her Marriage, with his known Enmity to the Duke of Gloucester for having publicly censured his Conduct, had so disgusted the Nation, that it was concluded he alone could be guilty of such an Outrage against a Prince
of

of the Blood—But the People judge only from Appearances, and cannot dive into the secret Movements of a State. By invisible Springs the complicated Wheels of Government revolve, and from trifling Incidents great Events originate. The accidental Attachment of Somerset and Lady Anne gave Rise to a Train of Circumstances, that ended in the Fall of a Prince beloved for his many amiable Qualities; and effected, what otherwise all Margaret's Power, stimulated as she was by Ambition, might have proved unequal to.

THOUGH Suffolk was esteemed the Principal in the Duke's Assassination,

assination, yet Somerset did not escape Censure; and to such a Height was the Resentment of the People raised against him, that he thought it prudent to leave the Kingdom till it subsided. He proposed going into Normandy, and there, after being bound to Lady Anne by honourable Ties, in some sweet Retirement to dedicate his Hours to Love and Philosophy. There, bidding adieu to the thorny Paths of Ambition and Glory—enveloped in a happy Indifference—despising alike the Tongue of Slander, or the Breath of Fame—he determined to indulge himself in all the Luxuries of Love. Little did he foresee the Obstacles that would arise to frustrate

frustrate this pleasing Plan, and blast his promised Joys. Secure as he thought himself of Lady Anne's Affection, he knew not what noble Qualities her Soul contained — He knew not that though Love seemed to reign triumphant in her Heart, she could rise superior to it when Honour bid. No sooner had he informed her that the dreadful Deed was perpetrated, and boasted of it as the greatest Proof of his Affection, than a secret Horror ran through all her Veins. Esteem, Respect, and every Prop of Love gave way, and laid the Mansion, where dwelt her Hopes and Wishes, low in Ruins. Though Passion had so far blinded her as to consent to
a Breach

a Breach of one of the Laws of Honour and Virtue, yet her elevated Mind disclaimed any Connection with a Man that could thus violate all the Laws of Humanity, and betray such Marks of a savage Disposition. Honour and Delicacy forbid that she should take an Assassin to her Arms.—Yet what were the Pangs she suffered, to find herself forced by a cruel Necessity to give up the Man so closely entwined about her Heart. She however hesitated not, but determined to obey the rigid Rules of Virtue, which forbid her to reward, even by her Approbation, the sanguinary Deed, and add by that Means to a comparatively

paratively venial Crime, another of the blackest Dye.

BUT this Alteration in her Sentiments Lady Anne thought proper to conceal, under a Pretence that the Earl her Father was more exasperated against her since the Death of the Duke of Gloucester. That as he imputed to her a Share in his Destruction, her Duty required an Increase of Assiduity and Respect to pacify his Anger, and procure his Consent to their Union. She disguised in this Manner her Disgust, both from the Queen and Somerset; and saw him depart, with a Tranquility she lately supposed could never be restored to her Breast. The Duke

Duke, after having in vain made use of every Argument the sincerest Affection could inspire, to soften her Obduracy, took his Leave, and sailed for France. By the Queen's Interest he had been appointed to the Regency of that Kingdom, in the Room of the Duke of York, who through her Instigations was recalled,

THIS Prince, in whom the Honours of the House of March centered, was descended from Lionel, third Son of Edward the Third; who being an elder Brother to John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, his Descendants had consequently a prior Right to the Crown. Henry the Fourth got Posses-

Possession of the Throne, by depriving Richard the Second, Son of the great Black Prince, of his Liberty. Edmund Mortimer Earl of March, at that Time next of Kin to Richard, could not assert his Claim; so that it had descended to Henry the Fifth, and the present King, Henry the Sixth, undisputed. The great Qualifications of the fifth Harry, and the Goodness of his Son's Heart, rendered them deserving of the Crown, though their Father had acquired it unjustly for them: But when the Nation began to be displeased at the Conduct of Margaret and her Favourites, to whom they imputed the total Loss of France, they spared not their Murmurs.

The

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The present Duke of York thought this Conjunction a proper Time to take the necessary Steps towards the Recovery of that Kingdom, to which he could so clearly prove his Pretensions.

How short-sighted is human Policy, and how uncertain the Event of any Scheme prosecuted by indirect Methods ! The Queen with the rest of the Duke of Gloucester's Enemies concluded, that his Death had placed them out of the Reach of all Opposition, and had established the King's Throne, and their Power on a solid Foundation. But the Removal of the Duke proved the Cause of their Ruin, and the Downfall of the
usurped

usurped Sovereignty of the House of Lancaster : For the Duke of York now saw himself at Liberty to assert his Claim, which doubtless he would never have thought of, whilst such a worthy Competitor as the Duke of Gloucester stood between. The Enmity of Margaret was consequently transferred to him, and she ever after beheld him with a jealous Eye.

THE Duke of York, not more eminent for his exalted Birth, than his personal and mental Accomplishments, had succeeded the Duke of Bedford as Regent of France ; where he gave Proofs of his great Abilities as a Warrior. By his prudent Conduct he drove the
French

French out of Normandy, and on the Plains of Pontoise they were Witnesses of his Valour. There, seconded by the invincible Talbot, his very Enemies were astonished at his Intrepidity. Charles, the French King, attended by his Son the Dauphin, and every valiant Knight that acknowledged his Sovereignty, laid Siege to Pontoise; a Town of which the indefatigable Talbot had scaled the Walls, and taken by Surprise, some Years before, during a hard Frost that had rendered the Armies inactive. The Place was attacked with great Vigour, and defended with no less Bravery. Talbot, whom no Difficulties could daunt, was ordered by the Duke of York who had

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hastily

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hastily marched to the Relief of the Town with an inferior Army, to throw Supplies into it. This he did several Times, notwithstanding the Vigilance of the Besiegers. Such seasonable Assistance inspiring the Garrison with fresh Courage, they made a brave Defence, and the Siege went on but slowly.

THE Duke of York seeing Charles determined to make himself Master of the place, sent a Herald to offer him Battle. The King, who chose not to be drawn from his Design, and knew that his Situation secured him from an Attack, sent his Antagonist an evasive Answer, and made his Approaches

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Approaches at leisure. The English Army was posted on the opposite Side of the River Ouse, which they could not pass, but over a Bridge guarded by a thousand Men. The Duke resolving at any Rate to relieve the Place, found means during a dark Night, to convey across the River, five or six hundred Men, in Boats made of Skins. This Detachment falling unexpectedly on the Guard at the Bridge, and cutting them in Pieces, opened a Passage for the rest of the Army. The Duke, attended by the intrepid Talbot, commanded this dangerous Expedition: With an irresistible Impetuosity, they rushed on the Foe; nor could

Superiority of Numbers avail against the small but impenthrable Phalanx of the English. Charles was astonished at this unexpected Action, and so intimidated by such a Torrent of Valour, that he suddenly raised the Siege, and retreated under the Cannon of Poissi. The Duke of York followed him, and tried every Method to bring him into the Field, but in vain. After having braved him for several Days, he plundered the rich Abbey of Poissi, which was situated at some Distance from the Town, and then retired, not thinking it adviseable to attack his Enemy in so advantageous a Situation.

By

By this Battle the Duke acquired immortal Honour, and brought Disgrace upon his royal Adversary; who was soon after obliged to have Recourse to a desperate Act to recover his lost Reputation.

WHILST the Duke of York continued to command in France, he stemmed the Tide of * Ill-suc-

F 3

cess

* This Ill-succes was partly owing to one of those extraordinary Incidents, which sometimes frustrates the best concerted Plans— withstands the utmost Efforts of Prudence and Valour — counterbalances a long Series of Succes—and determines the Fate of Nations. A Country Girl, called Joan of Arc, and afterwards distinguished by the Name of La Pucelle, or, the Maid of Orleans, pretending to a Commission from Heaven, and

cess that was insensibly overwhelming the English Affairs in that

supernatural Assistance, arrived at the French Court, when Charles the Seventh, reduced to the last Extremity, was on the point of losing the whole of his Possessions. The Siege of Orleans a place of great Importance, had been carried on for some Time by the English, and was near surrendering, when Joan appeared dressed in the Habit of a Man, and clad in Armour. The uncommon Proofs of Valour she exhibited, convinced the French Troops that she was more than Mortal; and inspired them with a Confidence which the English could not withstand. The first Day after her Arrival at Orleans, she put herself at the Head of a Detachment of the Garrison, and attacked Sword in Hand, one of those strong Forts with which the Besiegers had surrounded the City. The gallant Resistance of the English could not hinder her from taking it. In the same manner the other Redoubts were carried by Degrees; and those brave English Forces, that had for many Years been used

that Kingdom. Divisions at home arising from the Intrigues of the Cardinal of Winchester, and afterwards from those of Margaret, prevented those Supplies from being sent, which were absolutely necessary for the Support of the War. With an Army daily diminishing, it was impossible to retain those glorious Fruits of Edward's and Henry's

F 4

Con-

to Conquest, on a sudden seized with a Pan-
 nick they could not overcome, retreated in
 great Disorder before an Enemy inferior in
 Numbers. From this Hour the Affairs of the
 English began to decline and the French re-
 took one after another, most of the Places
 they had lost. A remarkable Instance of the
 Vicissitude of human Affairs, and the Force
 of Prejudice and Infatuation on the Minds of
 Mankind.

Conquests; but it was not till after he was recalled, and the Command given to his implacable Enemy the Duke of Somerset, that the French recovered all those Possessions which had been acquired at the expence of so much Blood.—To this Magnanimity, and these warlike Abilities, were superadded every Accomplishment that could render him worthy of the Crown to which he aspired. A true Nobility of Soul shone forth conspicuous in his manly Shape and graceful Gestures; whilst his Affability procured him universal Respect and Esteem. He was in the Meridian of Life, when he returned to England. His
Duchess

Duchefs had been ſome Time dead, leaving him ſeveral Sons. Edward Earl of March, afterwards King of England, by the Title of Edward the Fourth.—Edmund Earl of Rutland, who was ſlain by the bloody Clifford immediately after the Battle of Wakefield, in which his Father loſt his Life.—George Duke of Clarence—and Richard Duke of Glouceſter who came to the Throne, ſucceeding his Brother Edward.

ON the Duke of York's Arrival from France, he found the Queen intent on aggrandizing her Favourites, and governing the Nation with a high Hand. His

Government had been granted him by Patent for Five Years, but he was recalled before the Expiration of that Time; however his natural Policy prompted him to conceal his Resentment at so conspicuous an Insult. This he did so effectually, that Margaret herself was deceived, and laid aside her Suspicions. He seemed to dedicate himself entirely to Pleasure. Balls, Tournaments and Carousals, (the Divertisements of the Times) employed each Hour. It is not to be supposed, that so accomplished a Prince should omit in the List of his Amusements, Gallantry; nor should we wonder, if Lady Anne Neville who held the first Rank amongst

amongst the Beauties of the Age, attracted his Notice. He no sooner saw her than he felt the Power of Love; my Heroine made such an Impression on his Heart, that he determined to share his present Honours, and his future Prospects with her; convinced that her Birth, her Charms, and amiable Qualities would grace the Throne he hoped he should be able to raise her to.

THIS Conquest her Friend had made, did not escape the Penetration of the Queen. Attentive to every Circumstance that promised to gratify her favourite Passion, she saw the Advantages

that would attend this Connection. The Degree of Intimacy she had admitted Lady Anne to, and the Favours she had bestowed upon her, ensured her, she doubted not, every Return that Gratitude could dictate. By her Means, Margaret thought she might get at the Secrets and Designs of the Duke of York, and be able to circumvent them. But the Situation of her beloved Suffolk at this Time engaged all her Attention, and obliged her to lay aside every other Thought. The Murmurs of the People, and the Petitions presented to the King by the Parliament, forced her to consent to the Banishment of her Favourite, as the only Means of
screening

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screening him from the Vengeance of a justly incensed Nation. This she did with the utmost Reluctance; and whilst she lamented his Absence with a Degree of Sorrow, she thought nothing could augment, Accounts were received that he was seized on his Passage to France by the Captain of an English Man of War, who immediately ordered him to be beheaded, and his Remains to be thrown on the Sands of Dover.

THUS fell William De la Pole Duke of Suffolk, who though he had served twenty-four Years in France with great Reputation, and was raised to the highest Honours for his eminent Abilities,
yet

yet could not withstand the Destiny annexed to abused Favouritism.— Envied, but dangerous Station! as almost every Reign has proved — The elevated Height makes the Head giddy—Justice, Humanity and Honour take their Flight, and leave Ambition, insatiate Lust of Power, and Pride, sole Proprietors of the Heart—Greater than Kings the Minions sit, regardless of the People's Welfare, for which they thus are raised; till having kept the Seat a little while, their Fall is sure; and from the Battlements of so high a Tower, it must be fatal.

MARGARET experienced the sincerest Grief for the Death of a Nobleman

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Nobleman, to whom she was under the highest Obligations, exclusive of more tender Ties — which has been said. She was undoubtedly indebted to him for the Crown she wore, and the Completion of her ambitious Designs, and therefore must severely feel his Loss; but she took care to conceal the Excess of her Sorrow from the World. However, when she retired to her Apartments, she poured out her Complaints with her Tears, into the Bosom of Lady Anne.

THE Confidence this fair Unfortunate had formerly placed in the Queen, and the Ingenuousness with which she had divulged her own Frailties,

Frailties, induced her to make a reciprocal Return, and share with Lady Anne her Secrets and her Sorrows. To engage her Sympathy, and Indulgence the more, she imparted to her the Orders she had given for bringing back the Duke of Somerset, by the same Ship that carried out the ill-fated Suffolk, with her Intention of making him Minister in his Room. She then added, that the greatest Alleviation to her Misfortunes would arise from dividing her Authority with two such valuable Friends.

THE Queen was as yet ignorant of the Alteration in Lady Anne's Sentiments; and doubted not but that on Somerset's Arrival,

val, their Nuptials would be celebrated : For she could not persuade herself, that Lady Anne could so suddenly be divested of that Tenderneſs ſhe had ſo lately been Witneſs to, notwithstanding her preſent Intimacy with the Duke of York. But that Lady had other Deſigns ; for the Day after this Converſation, ſhe left the Court without giving the Queen the leaſt Notice of her Departure. The Moment ſhe heard of the Duke of Somerſet's Return, to avoid his Solicitations, which in the preſent Situation of her Heart muſt be extremely diſagreeable, ſhe determined to ſet out to rejoin the Duke of York, on whom ſhe had beſtowed thoſe Affections Somerſet

merfet had proved himself unworthy of. The Gallantry of that Prince, aided by his pleasing Qualifications, had aroused her Susceptibility, and made a deep Impression on her Heart.

BUT their Courtship was interrupted by the Duke's Departure for Ireland, of which Kingdom he had been appointed Governor. A dangerous Rebellion had broke out there, the Suppression of which it was pretended his warlike Abilities and Prudence were only equal to: But the Fact was, that the Queen wished to keep him at a Distance from the Court, that he might not too minutely inspect into her Intrigues, and by
his

his Power counteract them. Her Plan was even more extended; she knew the natural Ferocity of the Irish, with the Difficulties that would attend the Expedition; and had from thence formed Hopes that the Duke would fail in the Attempt, if he did not lose his Life in it; either of which Events would gratify her Hatred in the the highest Degree. To insure Success to her Designs, she took care that the Duke should be ill supplied with the Sinews of War. But his prudent Management rendered them unnecessary; for by his mild and obliging Behaviour he so won the Esteem of the Irish, who, though fierce and uncontrollable, are naturally brave and generous,

generous, that they returned to their Duty, without his being obliged to have Recourse to Arms. Thus were Margaret's Views frustrated: Every Stroke she levelled at the Duke, rebounded on her own Head; adding to the Wounds her Peace of Mind had already received, whilst they increased his Reputation, and furthered his Designs.

THE Duke of Somerset's sudden Return induced Lady Anne to take a Step, which she would probably have wished to avoid. And though the Motive she assigned on her Arrival in Ireland, was that of paying a Visit to her two Brothers, to desire their Interest with the Earl her Father in her Favour;

Favour ; yet the real Inducement of her Voyage was, to put herself under the Protection of the Duke of York, and to be out of the Reach of Somerset, from the Violence of whose Temper she had much to fear. When Lady Anne set out, she left a Letter for her once favoured Lover, in which she explained to him the Reasons of her present Conduct ; and without Disguise informed him of the Alteration in her Heart ; omitting nothing but the Name of his Rival. This he remained not long in Ignorance of, for common Report soon informed him of the Prince's Attachment to his late Mistress. As there had been no Care taken to conceal their Courtship, it was
observed

observed by the whole Court; and the Duke found it confirmed by his Emissaries, from whom he likewise learnt, that she had taken the Rout to Dublin, attended only by a small Retinue.

DISTRACTED to find all his pleasing Hopes thus blasted, and all his ideal Schemes of Happiness (the Produce of a warm Imagination) in a Moment vanished; he gave himself up to the Demons of Jealousy and Revenge. In the first Transports of his Passion he spared not Majesty itself; but upbraided the Queen with Negligence, in thus suffering the precious Treasure he had committed to her Care, to be stolen from him,

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him. Then changing the Object of his Resentment, in Language such as once spoke the Feelings of disappointed Ajax, would he execrate his hated Rival, and swear by every malignant Power, his Death alone should satisfy his Fury. This Violence of Somerset was foreseen by Lady Anne, who knew his haughty and irascible Disposition, and therefore she thought it prudent to withdraw before his Return to Court.

IN Dublin she met her Brothers, the Earl of Warwick, and Sir Thomas Neville who had attended the Duke of York in this Expedition. Two more accomplished

plished young Noblemen England never gave Birth to. The Earl of Warwick (to whom I shall confine my Description, as I propose to intermix some Part of his Life with this History of his Sister) was at this Time fully arrived at the Age of Manhood. Nature seemed to have been uncommonly prodigal of her Favours in his Formation, as indeed she had been to the Whole of the Salisbury Family. His Person, though robust and nervous, was elegantly turned, and might have served as a Model for a youthful Bacchus, or Maia's lovely Son; nor needed the Sculptor to have searched for scattered Graces; in him they were all united and
com-

compleat — A noble Air, an engaging Countenance, and an harmonious Voice, made up that Combination of personal Beauties, which, added to his Affability, Eloquence, and good Sense, prejudiced every Beholder so much in his Favour, that as he advanced in Life, he acquired the Love and Respect of the whole Nation. He had served several Campaigns in France, under the Duke of York, and had given Proofs of amazing Strength and undaunted Courage. There he laid the Foundation of that military Skill, which, during the Contentions between the Houses of York and Lancaster, insured Success to the Cause he espoused. He married

VCL. I. G whilst



whilst he was very young the Heirefs to the House of Warwick, and with her acquired such * immense Riches, as enabled him to indulge the Dictates of a Heart, naturally liberal even to Profusion. If there were any Shades to this high finished Piece (and Shades there will be in Nature's finest Traces) it was that haughty, lordly

* Dugdale says, that the yearly Value of the Estate he succeeded to by this Marriage, amounted to 8306 Marks, Eleven Shillings and Eleven Pence Halfpenny. At a Time when Barley was but Four Shillings and Two Pence per Quarter; Oats Two Shillings and Three Half-pence; Capons Three Pence a Piece, and Hens Three Half-pence, as appears by the Accounts of his household Officers. A vast Estate and more than equal to ten Times that Sum in the Reign of George the Third.

lordly Carriage with which the Nobles of those early Ages behaved to one another, and made each of them consider himself a Demi-God. None of the Earl's Compeers had a greater Right to assume this Consequence than he had, as none could equal him in the Qualifications that constitute a truly great Man. Besides, he made some Attonement for it by his obliging Behaviour to the lower Ranks of the People, who adored him for his Condescension.

THERE was a Series of successive Undauntedness (to use the Expression of an old Author) in the noble Families of the Earls of Warwick ; as bold as Beauchamp,

became at last a Proverb. Richard Neville, whom I have just described, inherited with the Title, the Bravery of his Father-in-law. Though the Stock from whence he sprung was not deficient in Intrepidity, yet that he might not prove unworthy of the Name he had taken upon him, he called forth all his Valour. Emulation increased his natural Courage.

THE Deeds of the famous Guy may probably be fabulous, but those of some of his Successors are well attested, and worthy of Record.

THOMAS, the first Earl of the Beauchamp Family, attended Edward

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ward the Third in his Expeditions to France. In one of them, having landed from the first Boat, with only his Esquire and six Archers, he supported himself against an advanced Party of the Enemy, consisting of one hundred Men; and before he received any Assistance, had killed sixty, and put the remainder to Flight. This amazing Act of Valour so intimidated the rest of the French Army, who were at hand to prevent the English from landing, that they suffered Edward to debark the whole of his Troops without any further Opposition.

RICHARD Beauchamp, the immediate Predecessor of the Earl of Warwick I celebrate, and whose Daughter he married, was so redoubted for his martial Achievements, that he might be said to equal Hercules in his Labours.

IN the Beginning of the Reign of Henry the Fourth, being then scarcely twenty-two Years of Age, at a grand Tournament held on account of the Queen's Coronation, he appeared as her Knight; challenged the whole Field, and carried off the Honours of the Day.

IN

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IN an Engagement with Owen Glendour, the Welch Hero, he signalized himself, and took his Banner with his own Hand.

HE had a very considerable share in the Battle of Shrewsbury, wherein Harry Percy (distinguished by the Name of Hotspur) lost his Life; and where the Prince of Wales, afterwards Henry the Fifth, first gave Proofs of that Valour which made his Name immortal.

PILGRIMAGES in that Age, were esteemed necessary to compleat the Character of an accomplished Knight; the Earl of Warwick, who would not be outdone

by any of his Compeers, accordingly set out for the Holy Land. At Verona, during his Journey, he was challenged by Sir Randolph Malacet, an Italian Knight, to fight with him at three Weapons, the Axe, the Sword, and the Dagger. At the first, after exchanging many a hardy Blow, they were declared equally matched, and the Victory remained doubtful: But at the Sword, the English Champion so greatly excelled, that had not the Heralds interposed, the Victory would have been as fatal to the Challenger, as it was decisive: The Italian was on the Point of attoning for his Bravado with his Life.

ON

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ON his Return, at a Tournament in France, he encountered Sir Collard Fineffe, a gallant Frenchman, and the Glory of that Court for Deeds of Chivalry. At every Just, the Earl bent his Adversary back to his Horse's Crupper; and appeared so steady in his Seat himself, and so little discomposed by the Shocks he received, that the French concluded he was fastened to his Horse by some unallowable Method. They expressed their Apprehensions at so uncommon an Appearance; but the Earl soon satisfied their Doubts, by suddenly vaulting from his Horse; and then in a Moment remounting, by another Career he

G 5

finished

finished the Contest to his own and his Country's Honour.

HE attended Henry the Fifth in all his Battles: At Agincourt he fought by his Side, and greatly assisted him in his rapid Conquests. —He was sent by that King to the Council of Constance, with a Retinue of Eight Hundred Horse. Here, in the Presence of the Emperor, he killed a Flemish Duke who challenged him. The Empress who was a Witness of his Valour, was so struck with it, that to shew her Approbation, she took the Badge from one of the Earl's Attendants (the Image of a Bear in Silver) and wore it on her Arm. But the next Day,
the

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the Earl no less gallant than brave, presented her with a Bear (which was his Crest) curiously made of Pearls and precious Stones.

THE Emperor Sigismund, before whom this last Proof of the Earl's Prowess, with many others, were performed, soon after came to England; where he was created Knight of the Garter by Henry the Fifth. Here he bore the most honourable Testimony of Lord Warwick's Greatness; telling the King, that for Wisdom, Gallantry, and Manhood, all Christendom could not boast of such another Knight; and as a public Token of the Estimation he

held the Earl in, he begged Leave of Henry to name him by his imperial Authority, "The Father of Courtesy." The King, who was too good a Judge of Merit, and too sensible of the real Value of it, to with-hold any Mark of his Favour from one so deserving, joined with the Emperor in bestowing Commendations, and Honours on the Earl. His immense Estate * set him above the Expectation of pecuniary Favours.

AFTER

* Richard Neville, on his Marriage with this Earl's Daughter, was possessed in his own Right, and that of his Wife's, of one hundred and fourteen Manors.

BRITISH WORTHIES.

AFTER the Death of Henry, and his Brother the Duke of Bedford, he sometime commanded the English Forces in France; where he sustained his Character, and suffered no Impeachment of his Courage, or military Knowledge. During his Life, the Success of the English was progressive, after his Death, retrograde.

IN his last Voyage to Normandy, meeting with a violent Tempest, and despairing of Life, he caused himself, his Lady, and an infant Son to be bound to the Mainmast, to the Intent that being cast on Shore, he might be known by his Armour and Coat of Arms, and have christian
Burial

Burial — A due Observance of every religious Right, was as necessary to constitute the Hero of those Times, as Valour and Gallantry.

THIS Earl died at Roan, April 30th, 1439, and lies buried under a stately Monument, in the Collegiate Church at Warwick. His charitable Deeds (says my Author) were not inferior to the Atchievements of his Valour.

THE Earl of Salisbury early espoused the Cause of the House of York. He was one of the first that advised the Duke to assert his Claim, and with the Influence of his Sons added to his own, was enabled

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enabled to offer him substantial Support.

As soon as the Duke of York received Advice that Lady Anne was on the Coast of Wales ready to embark for Ireland, he sent the Royal Galley to take her on Board; and before her Arrival prepared every thing to give her a princely Reception. On her landing, she was received with every Honour that is usually bestowed on Crowned Heads. The Duke himself met her at the Head of his Knights and the Officers of his Train, forming a grand Cavalcade, that at once gave the Irish an Idea of his Magnificence and of his Love. Lady Anne

✓

Anne was conducted to the Castle amidst the Applauses of the People, who all agreed that the Elegance of her Person, and the resplendant Beauties of her Face, rendered her worthy the elevated Station, to which the Duke publicly avowed his Intentions of raising her. The Earl of Warwick, and Sir Thomas Neville, her two Brothers, rejoiced in her good Fortune, and embraced her with Cordiality and Affection, burying in Oblivion her Imprudencies.

Not so the Earl her Father; who was no sooner informed of the Duke's Design, than instead of returning his Approbation as solicited, he set out immediately for Ireland

Ireland. Actuated by Honour and Delicacy (perhaps by Passion) he thought himself obliged to acquaint the Duke of his Daughter's criminal Connection with Somerset, and her Unworthiness of being his Duchess. Lady Anne, unacquainted with her Father's Intentions, and uncertain of his Disposition towards her, had prudently retired to a pleasant Seat of the Duke's a few Miles from Dublin, till her Brothers' Intercessions should mollify the Earl's Anger. But what was her Astonishment, when she learned the Motive of her Father's Voyage, and received Assurances of his continued Resentment? Noble and unpolluted as her
Mind

Mind was, she thought herself not unworthy of the Duke's Acceptance; but as by this Information his Designs were unavoidably altered, she was obliged to resign herself to her Fate. Her Love was not of the common Kind, and as it had not been fixed on the accomplished York till she was fully convinced of his Deserts, it had taken too deep Root to be easily eradicated. She suffered not this Fall from Grandeur, which would have given Pain to a more ambitious Mind, to deject her steady Soul, or lessen her Affection. Long did they mutually lament the Cruelty of the Earl of Salisbury, who thus broke in upon their promised Happiness.

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piness. Abandoned by her Father, disgraced to the World, and a Fugitive from her Country, where could Lady Anne's aching Heart seek for Repose but in the Bosom of her beloved York? she therefore permitted him to renew his Visits, and gave him Proofs that in him she did not seek a Crown, but gloried in his Friendship.

UNMOVED by the babling Tongue of Fame, which failed not to blazon forth her Foibles, she employed every Thought in forming Plans of Happiness for him she loved: Every revolving Sun beheld the Methods varied; To-day the pompous Tournament,
and

and splendid Feast ; To-morrow
sweet Retirement, under Cano-
pies of Woodbines mixt with
Roses. She knew how irksome
Restraint is to a Lover's Mind,
and therefore strove by covering
his Bonds with Flowers, to make
them invisible and ungalling.

LEARNING and the Polite* Arts
were not yet resurged from under
the Ruins of Gothic Barbarism,
where for many Centuries they
had lain buried. But the Min-
strels

* In these rude Ages (says Mr. Walpole)
Valour and Ignorance were the Attributes of
Nobility, then it was enough for Noblemen's
Sons to wind the Horn, and carry their
Hawke fair, and leave Study and Learning to
the Children of meaner People.

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strels still sung the Warrior's
Deeds; they were admitted to
the Hall, and whilst the Nobles
quaffed the brimming Goblet,
with Harp and nervous Verse,
or Bugle-horn, they roused their
Souls to Feats of Arms, or Love.
Arthur and Alfred, Names of
high Renown, the Subject of their
Songs, were handed down from
Sire to Son, and still retained
their emulative Power. Oh!
how unlike the thrilling Strains,
the enervating Sonatas of the pre-
sent Age, which lend their fee-
ble Aid to feebler Verse, effemi-
nate the Manners, and sink the
Soul in Indolence and Languor.

WHILST

WHILST Lady Anne seemed thus only attentive to the Amusements of her Lover, she entertained nobler Views, but still they centered in his Happiness. To the sumptuous Banquets, which they gave alternately, and in which, like Anthony and Cleopatra, they strove to outvie each other in Elegance and Magnificence, she always invited the Ladies of the principal Leaders and Noblemen among the People the Duke was sent to subdue: By her Affability and Courtesy she so gained their Esteem, that in Return they exerted all their Influence over their Husbands, to induce them to make proper Submissions, and accept of reasonable

LADY ANNE NEVILLE. 143

able Terms of Accommodation. By these Means she assisted in bringing about a Reconciliation without Bloodshed, preserved her much-loved York from the Snares that were laid for him by his Enemies, and was conducive to his Increase of Glory and Popularity.

HERE, for a Moment, let me stop, to observe how contradictory the Actions of even the greatest and wisest Men sometimes are; how inconsistent with their own Designs. The Earl of Salisbury, famed for his Prudence, and so apprehensive of the least Impeachment of his Honour, as to hasten to Ireland to prevent the
Union

Union between the Duke of York and his Daughter, that he might not be taxed with a Breach of it, in concealing her Frailty, could so far suffer the same Honour to remain passive when it counteracted his ambitious Views, as to permit Lady Anne to live with the Duke, on Terms disgraceful to himself and Family. The Mistress of a King (which he supposed she soon would be) was probably considered by him as less deserving of Censure, than one in an inferior Station ; but neither Opinion, or Change of Situation can alter the Nature of a Deed if censurable, or free the Earl from the Charge of Inconsistency —How confined is human Wisdom,

dom, and how frail is Man!—
Whenever we draw this Conclusion, from the Observations we make either on Books or real Life, let it induce us to treat with Lenity and Candour the Frailties of others.

THOUGH the Duke of York appeared thus dissolved in Luxury and Indolence, like Rinaldo in the Lap of Armida; yet he was not inattentive to the grand Designs that had long been in Agitation. The Jewels that sparkled in the Crown of England, often gleamed across his Imagination, and kindled anew the Flame of Ambition that lay smothered within his Breast. He kept up a
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continual Correspondence with his Friends in London, who gave him Intelligence of every Step pursued by Margaret and her new favourite Somerset, now his avowed Enemy. They informed him, that the Discontents of the People were risen to such a Height, that Success must attend his Attempts. The warlike Salisbury and his valiant Sons urged him on, and prevailed on him to sail for England to profit by these Advices. I shall pass over in Silence the Insurrection raised by Cade: A Plan laid by the Duke to feel the Pulse of the Nation, and try in what Estimation the Name of Mortimer was held by the People. This, with several other
Occur-

Occurrences of little Moment, I shall omit, till we find him encamped near Kingston.

IN consequence of the Solicitations of his Friends he had landed in England, and put himself at the Head of an Army, which by Means of his great Influence in Wales, he was soon able to raise. Judging the Possession of the City of London to be of the utmost Importance to him, he hastened towards it, but had the Mortification to find the Gates shut against him; the Inhabitants prudently declining to afford him any Assistance, whilst the Queen closely pursued him with a superior Force. He was therefore obliged to pass

the Thames at Kingston, to pursue his Rout into Kent, a County wholly in his Interest. But Margaret prevented the Execution of this Design ; for having passed the River at London-bridge, she intercepted him, and pitched her Tents about four Miles from the Duke. The latter, experienced in all the Arts of War, had strongly fortified his Camp, and every Moment expected that his Rival would make an Attack upon it, with an Army greatly outnumbering his. Their Proximity made an Engagement unavoidable ; but the Queen and Somerset thought it better to endeavour to get the Duke into their Hands by Stratagem, than by the uncertain

certain Event of a Battle. They knew his open unsuspicious Temper, and doubted not but that he would readily fall into the Snare they had laid for him. To this End, early in the Morning they sent two Bishops in the King's Name, to know what induced him to appear in Arms. The Duke, disappointed in his Designs upon London, thought it most prudent to carry it fair with the Court, and for fear of ruining his Affairs by too hasty Resolutions, answered, that he never intended to forsake his Allegiance to the King, but only to drive from his Person evil Counsellors, of whom the Duke of Somerset was the Principal; and that if his

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Majesty

Majesty would be pleased to order that Nobleman to Prison, he was ready to dismiss his Troops. He did not expect that his Demand would be granted ; he only wished to throw all the Blame on the Court, and to let the People see, that the Ministry would rather expose the Kingdom to all the Horrors of a civil War, than give up a Man so odious to the Nation. But the Duke became a Dupe to the Policy of his Enemies. The Prelates returned with the King's Assurances of Redress, and as an Earnest of it, informed him, that before their Departure from the Camp, they had seen the Duke of Somerset put under an Arrest. The Duke of York
was

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was surprized at this Condescension, and would fain have gone back from his Agreement; but he could not do it without hazarding the Loss of the People's good Will, on which he grounded all his Expectations; he therefore immediately disbanded his Troops, and set out for the royal Camp, without deigning to take the least Precaution for his personal Safety.

LADY Anne had attended him in this Expedition, accompanied by many other Ladies of Distinction, under a Pretence of Curiosity to see the military Exercises. Her Penetration immediately discovered some lurking Danger; she employed

ployed Tears, Remonstrances, and every Art, to prevail on the Duke to guard against the Malice and Cunning of his Enemies; but in vain. Actuated by a fatal Generosity, he condemned her Suspicions, and imprudently threw both himself and his lovely Mistress into their Hands.

SOMERSET had received Information, that the Person still so dear to him, was in his Rival's Camp. Love and Revenge united, urged him to make use of the most certain Method to get both into his Power, and therefore he had prompted the King to that apparent Moderation, by which the unsuspecting Duke was deceived.

The

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The King himself (good easy Man) was misled by Margaret and her Favourite; and though his honest Heart would have wished to avoid these Fallacies, yet, ever used to obey, he blindly followed their Directions, and lent his Name to insure Success to their Measures.

—No sooner had the Duke of York entered the Royal Presence, and begun his Accusations against Somerset, than the latter stepped from behind the Tapestry, and retorted his Invectives; calling the Duke Rebel, and charging him with Designs inconsistent with Loyalty. The Duke seeing his Enemy, whom he thought in Confinement, standing before him in the King's Apartment, now found

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he had been amused, and perceived his Danger ; nevertheless, without giving way to the Resentment which filled his Breast, and fired him to demand instant Satisfaction, assuming a Dignity blended with Respect, he complained that the King had broken his Word with him ; but imputed it to the same evil Influence that had been the Occasion of his taking up Arms. Henry, to whom Altercations of this Kind were always disagreeable, dismissed the Duke without explaining to him his Intentions : But he remained not long ignorant of them ; for he was scarcely got out of the royal Tent, than he was arrested, and sent to the Tower. Somerset, who, aided by

by the Queen, found no Obstruction to his most violent Measures, had previously obtained an Order for this Arrest: But his Designs were yet far from being compleated; the grand Incentive to all these harsh and unpopular Proceedings, the Recovery of his Mistress, was yet to be accomplished.

No sooner therefore was he at Liberty by his Rival's Commitment, to pursue the ultimate Part of his Plan, than he hastened to Burnt Heath, where he was certain Lady Anne waited the Duke's Return. During the short Distance that divided them, he found himself agitated by a thousand different Sensations; sometimes

Bitterness and Resentment filled his Heart ; he then determined to load his Mistress with Reproaches for her Falsehood and Inconstancy ; at others, her dear Idea presented itself to his View, clad in all her angelic Charms, kind and engaging as he had once found her ; then his Heart dissolved in Tenderness ; he was ready to forget her Infidelity, and forgive every Frailty. In this State of Distraction was Somerset when he entered the Tent. The Mind of Lady Anne, who had but a few Moments before found her Fears confirmed by the News of the Duke of York's Imprisonment, was no less agitated ; nor was her Confusion lessened when she saw the
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the Duke of Somerset before her. Apprehensive of the Effects of that Jealousy, which she was too well assured possessed his Mind, she waited not for a Discovery of his Sentiments, but threw herself at his Feet in a supplicating Posture. Had she known how well established her Empire still was in Somerset's Heart, she needed not thus to have humbled herself, but might have exerted her Power over him, and have kept him at a Distance. But unluckily as he raised her from the Ground, he perceived by the Alteration in her Shape, such a Confirmation of his Rival's Triumph, that, mad with jealous Fury

Fury, he lost all Power of Reflection, and drawing his Poniard, he plunged it into the Breast of the unfortunate Lady, determined to obliterate this visible Proof of her Infidelity. The Moment he had perpetrated the horrid Deed, he quitted the Tent, and returned to his Camp in Agonies not to be described. These nothing could have alleviated, but that Attention he found it necessary to bestow on the Measures proper to be taken relative to the Duke of York.

HAD Margaret and Somerset dared to have followed the Dictates of their Revenge, he would probably have shared the Fate of the

the Duke of Gloucester ; but the Situation of Affairs abroad, the Disposition of the People, and a Rumour that the young Earl of March was hastening with a considerable Army to his Father's Relief, damped their Violence, and made them determine on more moderate Proceedings. They accordingly set the Duke at Liberty, but took every Precaution to prevent any future Disturbances. To this Purpose, they obliged him to renew his Oath to Henry, acknowledging himself worthy of Death, without a legal Process, if ever he should be found in Arms against his Sovereign ; and also to consent that his Son, the Earl of March, should, by six Months

Months Imprisonment in the Tower, become his Guarantee for that Time.—During this Negotiation, the noble Disposition of Lady Anne again shewed itself; and she gave fresh Proofs of the Goodness of her Heart, and the Sweetness of her Temper. Immediate Care was taken of her Wound: From the Haste and Agitation in which it was given, the Dagger had not pierced the vital Parts; and there were Hopes of her Recovery. They had prudently concealed this Disaster from the Duke of York; but Lady Anne fearing that the Discovery of it, in all its aggravated Circumstances, might soon reach him, and so exasperate him as to retard

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retard the Treaty, made an Effort that her weak State would scarcely allow of: She wrote to him an Account of her Situation; but to lessen his Anxiety, represented her Health as being much better than it really was. At the same Time she endeavoured to excuse the Behaviour of Somerset, by imputing it to a Transport of Jealousy, which was not unpardonable in a once favoured Lover; and for which she doubted not but that he had been already sufficiently punished by great Remorse of Conscience. — This generous Conduct had the desired Effect; the Accommodation took place, and both her Lovers joined in praising her Magnanimity and
Good-

Good-Nature. It cannot be supposed, that the Inveteracy which subsisted between two such haughty Spirits, could be totally eradicated; but for a Time they suppressed it, and an apparent Reconciliation took place.

As soon as Lady Anne was recovered, the Duke of York set out for his Seat at Wigmore, on the Borders of Wales; where, in a peaceful Retirement, he dedicated his Time entirely to Pleasure.—Every ruder Passion was driven far away—even Ambition, which had made too sure a Lodgement in the Duke's Breast to be ever expelled, for a Time was lulled asleep. Nothing was admitted

mitted that could disturb their Tranquility : — The Trumpets founded only plaintive Strains—the ruder Notes of War were laid aside. “ Their Happiness was “ visible to every Observer ; it “ sparkled in their Eyes, spread “ a smiling Serenity over their “ Faces, and gave a Vivacity and “ Grace to all their Motions.” They again renewed the pleasing Employments that had given them such Delight in Ireland. Their Castle became the Center of Pleasure : Besides a small Company of chosen Friends, who were admitted to their private Parties, every Person of Taste and Refinement resorted to Wigmore, to partake of the Amusements,

ments, and to behold the envied State of this happy Pair. Their Tendernefs to each other—their affable Deportment—their elegant Stile of Living—and their refined Pleasures—excited the Admiration of all that knew them.

AMIDST all these Gaieties, Lady Anne found Time to indulge the natural Benevolence of her Heart. Humanity was certainly the predominant Affection of her Mind. Her Charity was as extensive as her Power,—she sought out real Objects, and found her greatest Pleasure in contributing to their Relief. The wounded and disabled Veteran—the pillag-
ed

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ed Family, and the desolate Ham-
let (the sad Effects of civil Dis-
cord) afforded continual Calls for
her Donations. The old Soldier
rejoiced in finding an Asylum
wherein to rest his wearied, mang-
led Limbs—the plundered Family
with Pleasure and Surprize, be-
held their little All restored—and
the Village no longer desolate,
heard once more their Flocks
bleat around them, and saw their
Fields smile with the rich Prospect
of a plenteous Harvest.—Whilst
every Eye was fixed upon my
Heroine as the great Source (next
Heaven) of all this Happiness:
She, alone, attentive to her Foibles,
with Sighs lamented her cruel
Situation, and surrounded by all the
Vanities

Vanities of Life, acquiesced in this great Truth, that without Virtue there is no real Happiness. Inspired by Charity she looked with Tenderness upon the Errors of Mankind—judged favourably of every Action; making proper Allowances for the Weakness of human Nature—and placed the Merit against the Failings of her Neighbour.—This is true Goodness, however unintelligible to the narrow minded Wretch, who places all his Trust in Forms and Shew, the Trappings of Religion:

WHILST the Duke of York enjoyed himself in his Retirement, the Queen and her Favourites, by their rapacious and tyrannical Conduct,

Conduct, rendered themselves every Day more unpopular and displeasing to the Nation. The Duke's Friends failed not to make a proper Use of this Disposition of the People; for notwithstanding the Ministry had compelled him to enter into such strict Obligations, yet as they were extorted from him, he did not esteem them binding. Though for many Months he had appeared immersed in Pleasure; Ambition now again resumed her Place. He was not without his Adherents even in the Council, who though they seemed devoted to the Queen's Interest, were watching every Opportunity to serve that Prince. These intimated to
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the Ministry, that as the People were so disgusted, and as the Parliament might come to some Resolutions that were not quite agreeable, it would be proper to call in the Duke, and his Friends to their Assistance, whose Popularity could carry any Measures through the House. This Advice built on such plausible Reasons was accepted: The Duke of York, the Earls of Salisbury and Warwick, with some others were called to assist at a Council before the Parliament met, where they were no sooner admitted, than they secured a Majority in their Favour, and carried all before them. The King, being by Illness rendered incapable of governing

verning the Kingdom, the Duke of York was declared Protector of the Realm. The first Exertion of his Authority was shewn by seizing the Duke of Somerset in the Queen's own Apartment, and sending him to the Tower. This Indignity offered to Margaret through her Favourite, highly offended and terrified her; but she had it not now in her Power to shew her Resentment.

THE Impeachment against the imprisoned Duke was suffered to lie dormant for several Months, to the Amazement of the whole Kingdom. But few are acquainted with the secret Springs of Government. He was indebted for

this Lenity to that noble Lady, who having once loved him, could notwithstanding his cruel Treatment, so far interest herself in his Favour, as to exert her Power over the Duke of York in his Behalf. The Duke, though he felt his Jealousy alarmed whilst she pleaded in his Defence, yet yeilded to her Intreaties, and suppressed his Resentment.

DURING the Time Administration remained in other Hands, Margaret seemed to have dropped all her ambitious Schemes, and to confine her Attention to the King (whose Recovery was very doubtful) and to the Education of her Son. But such an intriguing Spirit

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rit could not long lie idle. Though she had lately redoubled her Caresses to Lady Anne, yet she had never forgiven her Desertion to the Duke of York, the professed Enemy of her Family. Thus, whilst that unsuspicious Lady thought herself as much in the Queen's Favour as ever, she was laying a Plan for wounding the Peace both of her and the Duke — she had prevailed on Bouchier, Archbishop of Canterbury to make the Earl of Salisbury sensible of the Impropriety there was, in suffering his Daughter to continue her present Connection with the Duke of York. He urged the Heinousness of the Crime, and the Stain it brought

upon his Honour. These Remonstrances had such an Effect upon the Earl, that he suffered Lady Anne to be privately conveyed away by some Ecclesiastics appointed for that Purpose by the Prelate, and shut up in a Convent, at a great Distance from London. The Queen's principal View in this, was to make a Breach between Lord Salisbury and the Duke, as well as to punish his Daughter; and in this she succeeded.

WHILST the Duke of York was involved in Surprize and Grief, at this sudden Loss of a Mistress whom he dearly loved, he found his Chagrin augmented
by

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by an unexpected Event. The Queen by her excessive Care, had procured her Husband at least the Appearance of Health, and as the Duke only held his Post during the King's Inability, he was now of course obliged to resign it. As he rather expected to be informed that his Majesty was no more, judge of his Surprize when he heard him demand a Surrender of his Authority. He saw through the Artifice but had it not in his Power to dispute the Claim: However, it whetted his almost blunted Purposes. To this the Release of the Duke of Somerset, which naturally followed, did not a little contribute. All these Aggravations determined the Duke

of York to seize the first Opportunity of revenging himself ; and when he had once more attained the Superiority, to treat his Enemies with less Lenity than he had hitherto done.

No sooner was Somerset at Liberty, than his first Thoughts were employed on the Steps necessary to be taken for the Recovery of his lost Mistress : She still maintained her Empire over his Heart ; and the Exertion of her Interest in his Behalf during his Confinement, convinced him that her Displeasure was abated : He even flattered himself that she meant it as an Assurance of returning Love. This greatly alleviated

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leviated the Gloom of his Impri-
sonment, and prompted him to
attempt the Completion of his
Happinefs. The Queen made a
Merit with her Favourite, of the
Artifice ſhe had employed to de-
tach Lady Anne from her Lover,
and he accepted it as an Attone-
ment for that Negligence, which
had formerly ſubjected her to his
Upbraidings. She immediately
informed him, that Lady Anne
had been conveyed to the retired
Convent of Saxehead, ſituated on
the Northern Borders of the King-
dom, and that an Injunction had
been laid on the Abbefs, that no
one ſhould be allowed to ſee her
without an Order from Court.

THIS Somerset determined to avail himself of; and under Pretence of visiting the Scottish Marches, which were threatened with an Invasion, he set out for the North.—On his Return from this Tour, he left his Retinue, and, with a few faithful Attendants, presented himself at the Gate of the Convent, producing an Order, signed by his own Hand as Minister, for the immediate Delivery of the fair Recluse. The Abbess, who knew that the Confinement of Lady Anne had been occasioned by some Reasons of State, hesitated not to obey the Order; and though it was now late in the Evening, and very dark, suffered her to be conducted

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ducted to a Carriage which had been brought for that Purpose. Somerset during the Whole of this Procedure had not discovered himself; but deferring the Pleasure of an Eclaircissement till he should be at Liberty more fully to enjoy it, committed her to the Care of some Persons whom he could confide in, and then returned to his Train.—Lady Anne was exceedingly surprized at these Circumstances; but as the Confinement she was thus released from, had been very irksome to one of her lively Disposition, she thought any Change would be in her Favour. She sometimes had Apprehensions that this Removal proceeded from an Increase of

Rigour in the Earl her Father; however, as she was conscious that her Indiscretions had not proceeded from a Depravity of Mind, but from a Train of unhappy Circumstances, which she could neither foresee nor prevent, she suffered not any Fears to discompose her during the whole Journey. All the Enquiries she made to those who escorted her, could not procure a satisfactory Answer; nor was the Mystery more fully explained, when she found herself introduced into magnificent Apartments in a Castle, that, from its Extensiveness and Grandeur, spoke the Consequence of its Owner.

BUT

BUT she remained not long at a Loss for a perfect Explanation. The enraptured Somerset arrived soon after his beauteous Prize; and entering the Room, threw himself at her Feet, begging her Pardon for the disagreeable Confinement she had undergone, and the Suspence in which she had been kept. He then acknowledged himself the Author of both, and pleaded the Excess of his Passion as an Excuse. Lady Anne heard him with Composure, but remained unmoved; withdrawing her Hand, which he had suddenly laid hold of, with a Dignity that kept him in Awe. 'Tis true she had once loved him with an Ardour that few are ca-

pable of ; but Honour and Humanity had suppressed that Love. The same Honour and Dignity of Sentiment inspired her with Resolution to preserve inviolate her Constancy to the present Possessor of her Heart. Not all Somerset's Endeavours to rekindle a Flame that had once burnt so fierce ; not all his Tears, Entreaties, Reproaches, or Threats, could move her steady Soul ; he found it stored with Delicacy and Truth. His high Employments obliging him to attend at Court, it was but seldom that he could visit his lovely Prisoner, whose Coolness and Indifference could not make the least Alteration in his Sentiments. He loved her with
unabated

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unabated Tendernefs, and was often on the Point of having Recourfe to Violence to obtain a Return, which he could not purchafe by Submiffion.

AFTER feveral Months Concealment, during which the Duke of York was almoft diftracted, Lady Anne found Means to inform him, that fhe was confined at the Duke of Somerfet's Caftle, near St. Alban's. This, added to a new Difgrace he had lately undergone, in having the Government of Calais taken from him, and conferred on his Rival, notwithstanding he had the King's Letters-Patent for it, compleated his Fury, and worked him up to
a State

a State of Desperation. He suddenly left the Court, and retired into Wales, to raise an Army with which he might revenge his Wrongs, and assert his Right to the Throne. This he soon effected, as the Welch had been always firmly attached to the House of Mortimer; and being joined by the Earls of Salisbury and Warwick, who, though little Disgusts had arisen, were his steady Friends, he marched to meet the King, who had put himself at the Head of his Army.

THE Attraction of his fair Mistress probably made him bend his Steps towards St. Alban's. On a Plain near that Town their Forces met,

met, and nothing appeared to hinder an Engagement. The Duke, to shew he had taken up Arms purely for the public Good, once more made an Offer of dismissing his Troops, if the King would permit Justice to be executed on Somerset; but the Court looking on this as a Pretence, and knowing that some Time or other the Quarrel must be decided by the Sword, rejected his Proposals. The gallant Earl of Warwick, who commanded the Duke's Van-guard, expecting this Answer, suddenly fell on the Royal Army; and being seconded by the Duke himself, and the Earl of Salisbury, who headed the Remainder of the Forces, soon obtained a compleat Victory.

Victory. Somerset, exasperated to see his Troops give Way, tried every Method to rally them, and recover the Ground they had lost, but in vain. At last, determined not to survive the Loss of his Honour, and urged by disappointed Love, which made Life indifferent to him, he threw himself amongst the thickest of his Enemies, seeking out his Rival, and calling on his Name. The Duke of York, who happened to fight near him, hastened to his well known Voice, happy in having found so noble a Foe. Rivals in Love as well as Glory, and actuated by the same personal Hatred, they fought with equal Fury. The surrounding Troops dropped their
Swords,

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Swords, and seemed attentive only to their Leaders Valour. Alike inured to Arms, and skilled in every military Art, Victory for a while seemed undetermined which to crown; till at length the superior Power of York prevailed. Somerset collecting all his Force, levelled a deadly Blow at the Head of his Antagonist, which must have proved decisive, had he not warded it off with great Dexterity, and before Somerset could recover himself, the Sword of York was buried in his Side. This determined the Event of the Battle; the few Friends who had been able to keep Pace with the impetuous Somerset, shared his Fate; and the royal Army was totally routed with the

Loss

Loss of Five Thousand Men, notwithstanding the Contest lasted so short a Time.

THE King, who was wounded in the Neck with an Arrow, fled to the nearest Place of Refuge, which happened to be the unhappy Duke of Somerset's Castle. Thither the victorious York pursued him, and having forced the Gates, entered the Room where his Majesty was, followed by the Earl of Salisbury and his Sons. Then bending his Knee, he assured him, that now the public Enemy was dead, he beheld none before him but loyal Subjects, who only approached him to receive his Commands. The first
Ufe

Use the King made of this Submission, was to desire as a Proof of their Sincerity, that they would immediately put a Stop to the Slaughter. Humanity and Piety were predominant in Henry's Breast; the Horrors of War, and the sanguinary Purposes of ambitious Minds, were displeasing to him. But this Gentleness of Disposition, made him subservient to the arbitrary Mandates of Margaret and her Favourites, who were continually grasping at Power, and governing his Subjects with a Rod of Iron.

WHILST the Duke of York continued in the Room with the King, the Body of Somerset was brought

brought in from the Field of Battle, and laid on the Floor beside him; for a Moment he looked on it, and seemed to triumph in his Rival's Fall: Then with an Air of Disdain he spurned the lifeless Corpse, and silently turned away. An Action, so unbecoming a Man, disgusted every Beholder; but Haughtiness was the Foible of the Times. The Duke little thought, so trifling an Act as this appeared to him, would be attended with such serious Consequences; and that in return he should receive a heart-felt Wound.

LADY Anne, who had till this Hour been confined in Somerset's Castle,

Castle, waited with Impatience the Event of the Battle : To her inexpressible Joy she found that her dear York was victorious — that he was in Possession of the Fortrefs which had so long been her Prison, and in a Moment more she expected to clasp him in her faithful Arms. But how uncertain are our most sanguine Expectations—some evil Beings are ever ready to dash the Cup of Pleasure from our Lips. Before the Duke of York could get from the royal Presence, she had been informed by her Attendants, of his ungenerous and unmanly Behaviour to his vanquished Enemy. In an instant Love fled from her Breast, and left in its Place a generous

nerous Indignation: The same noble Impulse that had driven from her Bosom the Murderer of the worthy Duke of Gloucester, now banished from her Affection the Spurner of a breathless Foe. Though she felt so forcibly the Power of Love, yet (as I have before observed) the Traces of Honour were more deeply engraven on her Soul. The Man whom she esteemed, she loved with Tenderness, but no sooner had he rendered himself unworthy of that Tenderness, by any mean and ignoble Act, than she tore herself from him whatever Pangs it cost her. Let not this be termed Fickleness, as it proceeds from so laudable a Motive,—it is only
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the truly noble and elevated Mind that is capable of acting in this Manner — thus to subdue Passion by Reason, was not an easy Conquest.

RAPID and instantaneous was the Succession of every Event of my Heroine's Life: Fortune seemed to take a Pleasure in varying her Situations. She had scarcely received Information of the Duke of York's Behaviour, than the Disgust that followed close upon it, prompted her to fly from a Person she could not meet with that Cordiality she was accustomed to do. The Confusion that reigned in the Castle enabled her to put this Thought in Execution.

tion. Taking only a favourite Attendant with her, whom Lady Anne's engaging Behaviour, whilst at the Castle, had attached to her Interest, she joined the Queen, who had retired after the Battle into the Town of St. Alban. To her she represented the Motive of her Flight, as proceeding from the Apprehensions she was under from her Father, and once more begged her Protection.

MARGARET was totally absorbed in Grief, occasioned by the Loss of the Battle, but more particularly by the Death of her Favourite. — It was the general Opinion at that Time, that Somerset had succeeded Suffolk in
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the Queen's Heart—it might be so — some transient Gallantries may have taken Place — but he could never so far detach his Affections from Lady Anne as to bestow them on the Queen. Besides, if this had been really true, and she had looked on Lady Anne as her Rival, she was always so far Mistress of her Passions as to make them all subservient to her Ambition : Therefore, whilst that Lady could be of any Service to her, she restrained her Resentment. This was now the Case : Lady Anne had been her Confidant when she lamented her dear Suffolk ; and she knew not a more proper Person with whom to trust her Feelings for Somerset. She

accordingly gave her a gracious Reception, and poured her Fears into her Bosom.

THE Duke of York was obliged to attend on the King, till the State of his Wound was declared: When he could with Propriety leave the Room, he flew to find the Prize for which he had fought; but what was his Distraction, when he learnt she was not to be found? He ordered the strictest Search to be made after her, but in vain. To be disappointed in so considerable a Part of the Fruits he hoped to have received from this Victory, was more than he was able to bear; and he threw himself on a Sopha,
a Prey

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a Prey to Despair. But Lord Salisbury, who wondered at this sudden Alteration in his Friend as he knew not the Cause of his Anxiety, soon roused him from this State of Inactivity. He represented the Necessity there was of proceeding directly to London, and conjured him to lose no Time. The Duke acknowledged the Propriety of this Advice, and followed it; causing the King to be moved to the Capital as soon as his Wound would permit. There, by the Consent of a Parliament, which was summoned with all possible Speed, the Duke of York and his Friends were reinstated in all their Honours and Employments.—It is to be admired, that

the Duke did not seize this Opportunity of placing the Crown on his own Head, by making away with the Prince that was his Prisoner : The sanguinary Disposition of the Times would have supported him in it ; and there were not wanting those of his Adherents that advised him to it : But he would not listen to any Advice that tended to diminish his Glory, or depreciate his Honour. Therefore, to preserve his Popularity, and to convince the World that he was not swayed by Passion and Interest, he left the King and Queen at full Liberty.

THE

THE Earl of Warwick had greatly signalized himself at the Battle of St. Alban's, and there confirmed the Hopes the Nation had always entertained of his Bravery and great Abilities. He was almost adored for his Affability and Condescension; which, with the Power he derived from his immense Estates, and Number of Vassals, placed him high in the Scale of Consequence. The young Earl of March had fought by his Side in the late Battle, and given Proofs of that Courage and Resolution, which partly procured him the Sovereignty of England. To the Earl of Warwick he was chiefly indebted for his Advancement. There was

an Inequality of a few Years in their Age ; but a sincere Friendship had early taken Place between them, which lasted the greatest Part of their Lives.

WHILST the Duke of York enjoyed every Part of Sovereignty but the Name, Henry held his Court at Greenwich. Margaret, whose Spirits were never depressed, drew around her every Well-wisher to the House of Lancaster. She placed the young Duke of Somerset in the Post his Father had enjoyed, and received him into the same Degree of Favour—it has been said—of Affection. By the Assistance of powerful Cordials she once more restored the King to
so

so much Strength, as enabled him to appear in the House of Lords. The Lancastrian Party being, by the Intrigues of the Queen, now considerably augmented, she insisted on his again divesting the Duke of York of the Protectorship. This Henry did from his Throne, and had Interest enough to get his Demand confirmed by the Parliament. At the same Time Margaret caused it to be reported, that she intended to seize the Duke of York, with his most particular Adherents; and that Soldiers were placed for this Purpose in the different Avenues that led to the Parliament-House. The Duke finding himself thus suddenly deprived of his Autho-

rity, doubted not likewise the Truth of this Rumour. He knew the Queen to be capable of taking any unwarrantable Methods for his Destruction : This Reflection, added to the Surprize he had just been thrown into, disarmed him of his usual Resolution, and caused him to leave the House in the most private and expeditious Manner possible. Having enjoyed his late Power without Controul, he had laid aside his Suspicions, and neglected every Step to secure himself a Continuance of it in case of Opposition ; his Confusion at this Juncture is therefore the more excusable. The Earls of Salisbury and Warwick, observing his Retreat, soon followed him ;

him ; when it was agreed to separate, till they were better prepared to oppose Margaret's Power. The Duke of York retired to his Estate in Wales, the Earl of Salisbury to his Seat at Middleham in Yorkshire, and Lord Warwick returned to his Government of Calais.

IN these Retreats they continued for some Time, till recalled by the King ; who had he been left to govern according to the Dictates of his good Heart, would have prevented these Contentions, and have secured the Love of his Subjects by his Moderation and Equity. He saw with Concern so many valuable Noblemen dri-

ven from his Court ; and for once exerting his Authority, insisted that a Reconciliation should take Place. For that End he wrote a Letter with his own Hand to the Duke of York, wherein he desired that he would return with his Friends to London, and assist at his Councils; promising that no Injury should be done them, and declaring that his Intentions were sincere and undissembled. They obeyed the Summons, and returned. A Day of public Thanksgiving was appointed on account of this extraordinary Reconciliation, and a solemn Procession made to St. Paul's Church; their Majesties, with all the Court, walking two and two, one of each

each Party, in Token of perfect Union. The Duke of York led the Queen by the Hand, both with a smiling Countenance, and an affable Behaviour, covering the Enmity that rankled in their Hearts. Rarely does Sincerity, that amiable Virtue, take up her Abode with Ambition. The open and undisguised Proceedings of the former, are incompatible with the dark and intricate Designs of those who are continually grasping after Power. And what are the Rewards of those Perplexities and Toils that ever attend the Pursuit of it? Confusion, Bloodshed, and all the Horrors of War. How smooth and pleasant the verdant Paths of Honesty and In-

tegrity, when compared with the thorny crooked Road of Diffimulation and Intrigue?

BEFORE the Rejoicings and Entertainments given on Account of this Reconciliation were at an End, Margaret shewed with how little Sincerity she had given her Hand to the Duke of York. The great Abilities of the young Earl of Warwick, his Friend, excited her Fears. She saw in him a powerful Enemy arising to her House, and therefore she determined his Fall. For this Purpose her Majesty's Emissaries engaged some of the King's Domestics to pick a Quarrel with the Earl's Servants, as they waited
for

for him before the Palace Gates, whilst that Nobleman attended at the Council. A Fray consequently ensued ; and though the Earl of Warwick's Train was then considerable, yet they were soon overpowered by the King's Servants, who called the Guards to their Assistance. His Lordship at that unfortunate Moment, came from the Council Chamber ; he saw his Servants flying, and found himself attacked, nor knew the Cause. To the Queen's Disposition he was no Stranger, and doubted not but that it was done by her Commands ; he therefore determined to sell his Life at as dear a Rate as possible : Immediately drawing his Sword, and rallying

rallying the remainder of his Attendants, (for several of them were killed), he made a masterly Retreat to his Barge, which lay at hand ready to receive him. Though encountered by such a Multitude, the Earl escaped unhurt; his very Name striking Terror into his Opponents. Being soon after informed that Orders were issued for his Commitment to the Tower, as he had dared to draw his Sword against his Majesty's Domestics, he set out immediately for Calais. The Duke of York and Lord Salisbury concluding from this Attempt, that they could not remain in London long unmolested, withdrew again to their Estates. There they began
to

to raise an Army to revenge this Affront, for they now thought that they had sufficient Reason to believe, that the late Reconciliation was only a Scheme to make them secure, and a more easy Prey to the Wiles of the Ministry.

IN this Employ I shall leave them, and pass over those Circumstances which have no immediate Relation to my Heroine (who continued during these Transactions with the Queen at Greenwich), till I find the two Armies encamped near each other at a little Distance from Gloucester. That of the Duke of York had been reinforced by the Earl of Warwick, with a considerable part
of

of the Garrison of Calais. He also brought with him Sir Andrew Trollop, who had greatly signalized himself in the Wars of France, and whom they then esteemed a great Acquisition to their Party.

MARGARET, who looked into Futurity, and always provided for every possible Contingency, had taken Lady Anne Neville with her, in Hopes of making her some way or other contribute to the Destruction of her Enemies. Whilst the Armies lay encamped near each other, the Queen's plotting Head, ever fertile in Artifice, (encouraged by the Success that had attended her on a similar

milar Occasion) was digesting a Plan for drawing the Duke of York into her Power, without hazarding a Battle. She doubted not but that he still retained his Love for Lady Anne, notwithstanding she had forsaken him: Therefore taking her into the most retired Part of the Tent, she told her, that she had now an Opportunity of giving substantial Proofs of her Friendship, by putting a Scheme in Execution which would greatly promote her (Margaret's) Interest. To insure Lady Anne's Observance of her Commands, she spared neither Promises nor Threats. She then ordered her to go in the Evening to a Village which lay adjacent
to

to the Duke's Camp, from whence she was to send him a Message, importing that she had found Means to get so near him, that she might once more have the Satisfaction of seeing him. This was all Margaret required, leaving her further Designs unexplained. But Lady Anne was assured they portended no Good to the Duke of York: However she too well knew the Queen would be obeyed, or put her Menaces in Execution; she therefore consented to the Proposal, and set out as directed, but without the least Intention of fulfilling the Expectations of a revengeful Woman. Though she felt nothing of that Ardour for the Duke she had
once

once done, yet Generosity and Humanity forbid that she should thus basely betray him into the Hands of his Enemies: Her noble Soul disdained so mean a Thought. Instead of sending the proposed Message, she wrote to warn him of the Danger that threatened him, and advised him to guard against the Arts of the Queen, who, she assured him, was resolved on his Destruction. The Duke, restrained by Prudence from attending her himself, as Lady Anne had not explained the Reasons for her Caution, sent two Officers in whom he could confide, to thank her for this Proof of her Regard: At the same Time he commissioned them to
use

use every Argument, to prevail on that Lady to put herself once more under his Protection. This she was not disposed to do; for as she founded not her Prejudices on slight Grounds, she did not readily give them up.

THE Gentlemen having informed Lady Anne, that they were ordered by the Duke to obey implicitly her Commands, she desired they would assist her in escaping from the small Guard that attended her, and escort her to Bristol, that she might there take Shipping for Ireland. As Night approached when she had reached the Village, and it being now Dark, this was easily effected.

It

It is necessary to inform the Reader, that though Margaret had not divulged to her fair Friend the Extent of her Designs, yet she had given the Command of a choice Body of Cavalry to Somerset, who on receiving Intelligence that the Duke had obeyed the Summons, was to carry him off. A Delay from an unexpected Event, gave Lady Anne Time to escape. The Queen had not trusted to this Scheme alone; for the same Evening she caused a Proclamation to be distributed amongst her Enemies, promising a Pardon to all the Adherents of the rebellious Lords, provided they would lay down their Arms. The Duke of York's Troops, imagining that
the

the King offered them a Pardon, from a Consciousness of his his Superiority, concluded there was no Time to be lost in accepting it ; they accordingly dispersed with the greatest Expedition. Sir Andrew Trollop, who commanded the Detachment from Calais, and in whom Lord Warwick thought he could have placed the greatest Confidence, was the first to set the Example ; going early in the Night with the Forces under his Command over to the King. They were met by Somerset, who was by this Incident obliged to return to the royal Camp, instead of proceeding to the Village as appointed. From these Troops he learned, that the Duke of York was still

still in his Tent, but making Preparations for his Flight. As Somerset was unacquainted with Lady Anne's Sentiments, he doubted not but that she would return to the Queen, when she found the Duke did not attend her Summons; he therefore thought it unnecessary to follow her: She had consequently Time to pursue her own Measures.

THE Duke of York and his Friends, seeing themselves thus suddenly deserted, were obliged to have Recourse to Flight to save their Lives. That Prince, and his Son the Earl of Rutland, fled by way of Wales into Ireland; whilst the Earl of Salisbury, and Lord Warwick, taking with them the
Earl

Earl of March, bent their Course towards Southampton, in their Rout to Calais.

LADY Anne arrived at Bristol the next Morning, but found no Ship ready to sail for Ireland. An Account of the important Events of the past Night, — Margaret's Success,—and the Flight of the Lords of the White Rose, reached that City soon after her: It consequently not being a Place of safety, she followed the Advice of the two Officers that attended her, and set off for Southampton; being assured of finding an Asylum with her Brother at Calais. As she inherited a considerable Share of the Courage and Resolution of her

her Family, she bore the Fatigues, and encountered the Dangers that attended her Flight, with great Steadiness.

ON her Arrival at Southampton, she found there was a Ship ready to sail for Calais; and without making any further Enquiries, went on Board. She had been in the Cabin but a few Moments, when to her inexpressible Surprise, she saw her Father and Brother enter. Whilst the Earl beheld her with a stern Countenance, and seemed to demand with his Eyes the Reason of her being there, she threw herself on her Knees before him. Supported by a Consciousness of the Rectitude

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of

of her Heart, she was not in the least terrified, but calmly told him, that having made the Queen her Enemy, by endeavouring to preserve the Duke of York from her Machinations, she was seeking for a Place of Refuge. As the Earl was zealous in the Duke's Cause, even to Enthusiasm, this was the only String on which she could have touched to soften him; it instantly vibrated to his Heart, and produced so much Complacency as permitted him to demand a further Explanation. His Daughter accordingly gave him a Recital of the whole Transaction, whilst he, in Consideration of such noble Conduct, granted her his Pardon, and gave her an affectionate

fectionate Embrace. But when the Earl would have prevailed on her to divulge those Secrets, with which, from her great Intimacy with the Queen, she must have been intrusted, that Honour and Delicacy of Sentiment for which she was remarkable, came to her Aid; and she could not be persuaded to be guilty of a Breach of Confidence, even to her Enemies. Her Father could not disapprove of her Generosity, and finding her resolute, ceased his Solicitations. The Ship in which they were embarked, had been previously ordered to take the Earl of March and his Friends on Board; Lady Anne accompanied

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them,

them, and remained at Calais till after the Battle of Northampton.

THE Queen being determined to deprive the Earl of Warwick of his Government, sent the Duke of Somerset to take Possession of it; however, all the Attempts he made were ineffectual. Whilst he was employed in the Attack, a Fleet was fitted out to carry Succours to him; but it being detained at Sandwich by contrary Winds, the indefatigable Earl of Warwick resolved to take Advantage of this Delay. In pursuance of this Plan he collected together all the Ships he could, and with a chosen Body of Troops sailed in the Night from Calais. At the
Break

Break of Day he landed, and surprized all the Officers in their Beds. Having them in his Power, he found Means to gain the Soldiers and Mariners, and carried off the whole Fleet. So rich a Booty, for they were well provided with Ammunition and Stores, repaid his Intrepidity, and was of great Service to him in prosecuting the War.

BEING thus provided with a considerable naval Force, Lord Warwick sailed for Ireland, to concert with the Duke of York proper Measures for their mutual Defence. On his Return to Calais he met in the Channel the Royal Fleet, commanded by the

Duke of Exeter, who had been sent to intercept him : But such was the Reputation of Warwick, so much was he beloved by the People, and dreaded by his Enemies, that the Admiral, fearing he should be defeated, declined the Attack, and suffered him to sail back unmolested. Every Hour the Earl's Fame increased, and every Day produced new Proofs of his invincible Courage.

As I do not propose to give a general History of the War, I shall drop every unimportant Circumstance. — At the Battle of Northampton, Lord Warwick commanded the right Wing of the Duke of York's Army : The
Earl

Earl of March had the nominal supreme Command, in the Absence of his Father, who was still in Ireland; but the Success of the Day might be attributed to the Experience and Valour of the Earl of Salisbury and his Son. The Dukes of Somerset and Buckingham were at the Head of the Royalists, whilst the Queen kept at some Distance, to issue out her Orders as she should see them necessary. The King remained in his Tent, waiting the Issue of a Battle, which, in all Appearance, was to secure him the Crown, or deprive him of it for ever. The Contest lasted several Hours, till the Royal Army, disheartened by the Desertion of Lord Grey at-

tended by a considerable Body of Troops, was at last routed, with the Loss of Ten Thousand Men ; amongst whom were many Officers of Distinction. The Queen, the young Prince of Wales, and the Duke of Somerset, escaped to Durham. The unfortunate King, who continued in his Tent, praying for a Cessation of these Horrors, and resigned to his Fate, fell once more into the Hands of the victorious Lords ; who treating him with the greatest Respect, conveyed him to Northampton, and from thence to London. The Duke of York immediately returned from Ireland, and a total Revolution of course took Place : The Friends of his House supplanted

planted those of Margaret, and were for a Time the Rulers of the Nation.

LADY Anne, who had returned to England on this Success, now happy in a Reconciliation with her Family, appeared once more at Court, and again gave way to that Chearfulness and Gaiety which had been so long suppressed. The Duke of York found frequent Opportunities to renew his Solicitations with an Ardour equal to his Passion, which Absence had not abated. His Mistress for a long Time withstood them; but not being of an obdurate Disposition, she at length laid aside her Disgust,

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and received him again to her Favour. Ambition may have had some Share in the Conquest of her Indifference : To see the First Man in the Kingdom at her Feet, was a great Temptation to a female Heart ; especially as it is not to be supposed, that the real Tendernefs she had once felt for him, could be entirely eradicated : It lay smothered in her Breast, and fanned by the tender Sighs of her Lover, was soon rekindled, and blazed out anew. They were now sensible of an Increase of Happiness from the Interruption it had received ; and returned with redoubled Friendship to each others Arms.

HENRY

HENRY ever used to Controul, and though seated on a Throne born only to obey, beheld these Revolutions with Composure; giving the same Sanction to the Duke of York as he had done before to Margaret and her Favourites. Nothing could disturb his Serenity; a Happiness that he enjoyed alike, whether in his Palace or in a Prison. All Authors have termed this Indifference an Imbecillity of Mind; but it is more probable, that it proceeded from a just Way of Thinking; which, had he been left uncontrouled, and suffered to manifest by his Actions, would have tended more to the real Welfare of his Subjects, than the ambitious Schemes of

his Predecessors. His gentle Sway would have been productive of calm Enjoyments, and uninterrupted Peace. So many powerful Subjects would not have perished, or noble Families have been enfeebled. But the warlike Disposition of the People of that Age (or as it may more properly be termed, the Ferocity of the Times, which was yet untamed by Arts and Learning) would not allow this pacific Temper to be a royal Attribute.

HAPPY would it have been for Henry, had his Lot been cast in a private Station. Then could he have enjoyed the tranquil Delights his Soul panted after,—the
Pleasures

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Pleasures of Love, and the innocent Joys of Society. Instead of this, his Doom, after he reached his riper Years, was constant Trouble, and unceasing Tumult. United to a Temper opposite to his own, he was forced by the imperious Margaret to adopt Measures repugnant to the Dictates of his humane Heart. Alas, how fatal were the Consequences! Involved for many Years in bloody Contests—one Day a King, the next a Prisoner—dragged from a splendid Throne, to all the Horrors of a gloomy Tower—the Scene at last closed by a vile Russian's Hand. Had this Prince lived in less sanguinary Times he would have been a Blessing to his Kingdom;

dom; his Character would have been drawn by Historians in truer Colours, and placed by Posterity in a more just and favourable Light. His pious Resignation, and that Fortitude which supported his truly heroic Mind under all the Vicissitudes of his Life, would not have been called Weakness and Imbecillity.

'Tis impossible for a Person who writes the History of those warlike Ages, in his Description of heroic Deeds to avoid being inspired by the Ardour with which they were performed. This Enthusiasm tinctures the whole of his Detail, —his Humanity is laid asleep,—he forgets at what an Expence

pence they were atchieved, and omits in his Account all those Horrors and Devastations which naturally attend them. No Character is worthy his Attention, that is not thus heroically Mad; or any Actions worth recording, but what are animated by this martial Ardour, and stained with Cruelty and Bloodshed. This Observation seems to be peculiarly applicable to Henry the Sixth. All Historians dwell very slightly on his Qualifications, and comprize his Character in these few Words "A Cowl would have become him better than a Crown." As if Piety and a pacific Disposition were incompatible with a Throne. I wish to rescue
his

his Name from Oblivion ; and notwithstanding I have said in the Beginning of this Work, “ That though Prudence, Good-
 “ nature, Temperance, and Piety,
 “ may be the only Virtues neces-
 “ sary in private and domestic
 “ Life ; yet Penetration, Justice,
 “ Valour and Resolution must be
 “ added to them, to compleat the
 “ regal Character : ” Yet the former valuable Qualifications ought to be commemorated ; as the Prince that possesses them may make a good King, though he might not make a great One.

ALTHOUGH unsupported by the historic, I find my Opinion confirmed by the dramatic Muse,
 whose

whose Records are not always erroneous. The following Extracts from Shakespear, will shew in what Estimation Henry was held by that great Judge of Mankind—that Favourite of Nature, to whom she imparted all her Secrets, teaching him to dissect the human Heart, and catch the Passions as they flowed at every warm Pulsation. He thus makes Henry speak the humane and rational Dictates of his Heart, and describe the pleasing Satisfaction that resulted from his Endeavours to promote the Happiness of his Subjects.

I have

I have not stop'd mine ears to their demands,
 Nor posted off their suits with slow delays;
 My pity hath been balm to heal their wounds,
 My mildness hath allay'd their swelling griefs,
 My mercy dry'd their water-flowing tears.
 I have not been desirous of their wealth,
 Nor much oppress'd them with great subsidies,
 Nor forward of revenge, tho' they much err'd.

HENRY VI. Third Part.

Alas! I thought them men, and rather hop'd
 To win their hearts by mildness than severity.
 My soul was never form'd for cruelty.
 In my eyes justice has seem'd bloody,
 When on the city gates I have beheld
 A traitor's quarters parching in the sun,
 My blood has turned with horror at the sight:
 I took them down, and bury'd with his Limbs,
 The memory of the dead man's deeds.

RICHARD the III.

Would I were dead, if Heaven's good will
 were so;
 For what is in this world but grief and care?
 What noise and bustle do kings make to find
 it?

DITTO.

MANY

MANY Parts of these historical Plays, are so beautifully descriptive of this Monarch's Goodness of Heart, that I beg Leave to refer my Readers to them. He is not there described as void of Feelings, or weak in his Understanding, but sensible of Injuries, and of his unhappy Situation, yet bearing his Misfortunes like a Man.

THE Queen, since the Battle of Northampton, had been separated from the King her Husband, and continued still in the Northern Parts of the Kingdom, making use of every Effort to re-establish the broken Honours of her House. Her Affiduity and Perseverance were at
last

last successful; and she again saw herself at the Head of Ten Thousand Men. The Duke of York, who had lived in perfect Security, with his Foot on the Steps of the Throne, expecting every Moment a Call to mount it, received with Surprise the News of Margaret's Progress. She had caused it to be given out, that she was retired with the Prince of Wales her Son, to France. The Duke thought her there, and doubted not but that he should receive timely Notice of any Renewal of her Attempts. He knew her enterprising Spirit, and was convinced, that as soon as she could raise a sufficient Force she would not be idle; but he did not imagine she could have been

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been so expeditious. When he had received certain Intelligence that she was in Arms, he collected all his Troops, and marched towards the North. His little Army consisted only of Five Thousand Men, brought him by the Earl of Salisbury; but these were Veterans, and such as he could confide in. The Remainder he left with his Son the Earl of March, giving him Orders to follow the same Rout, after making an Augmentation, and allowing them proper Rest and Refreshment. The Informations he received, had not specified the Number of the Queen's Troops, but he was persuaded those he had with him, were sufficient to stop her further

ther Progress. In this he was however mistaken; for Margaret had made such good Use of her Time, as to raise a much superior Force to the Duke's.

IT appears strange to us, that an Army could be levied in so short a Time, as the Accounts of those Ages assure us was done: But it should be remembered, that the Yeomenry were then Vassals to the Lords. One Part of the Tenure on which they held their Lands was, that they should do Suit and Service, and attend their Lord compleatly armed for a certain Number of Days, whenever he took the Field. Of course, as the Knights (for such were all the
great

great Men) were then ever ready from their martial Dispositions to obey the first Summons, they issued their Orders to their Dependants, and a large Body of Men was soon collected.

WHEN the Duke of York reached the Place where Margaret was encamped, he perceived his Mistake; and not being strong enough to cope with her in the Field, he threw himself into Sandale Castle, near Wakefield in Yorkshire; determined to wait there for the Reinforcements his Son was to bring him. He knew his Enemy could not force him from thence without Artillery; and as she was not supplied with any, he had no
Appre-

Apprehensions from an Attack. The Queen, greatly superior in the Number of her Troops, was vexed to see her Adversary thus sheltered from her Fury. She dreaded the Approach of the Earl of March, which might render her Success doubtful; therefore she tried every Stratagem to draw the Duke from his Retreat. She appeared before the Walls of the Castle herself; now threatening him, then upbraiding him with Cowardice, and telling him, that a Man who aspired to a Crown must be utterly unworthy of it, to be thus braved by a Woman. The Duke of York had till then acted with the greatest Prudence and Conduct: During the Wars
in

in France he had shown no less Wisdom than true Valour; but in this Case he suffered his Courage to get the better of his Discretion; and though he was restrained a Thousand Times a Day by the prudent Earl of Salisbury (the Ulysses of the Age), yet at last his Perseverance prevailed over his Friend's Arguments, and he suffered himself to be drawn into the Field. He flattered himself, that the Experience and oft-tried Intrepidity of his Troops, would make up for the Deficiency of their Number; but he knew not how great that Deficiency was, Margaret having taken the Precaution to conceal a large Body of Troops

behind a Hill, which intercepted the View of them from the Castle.

THE Duke drew up his little Army with great Propriety on Wakefield Green, consulting the Situation of the Ground, and choosing the most advantageous Posts. He waited not long for the Queen, who, before his Troops were scarcely formed, charged them with great Impetuosity. These he probably might have been able to oppose, notwithstanding their superior Numbers; but whilst he was thus vigorously attacked in Front, those that lay in Ambush issued out, and fell on his Rear. This unexpected Assault caused such Confusion amongst his
Men,

Men, that in less than half an Hour, they were entirely routed. The Duke too late repented of his fatal Error; but still his Courage, and Desire of Revenge, supported him. The old Earl of Salisbury, who fought near his Friend, instead of reproaching him for despising his Advice, determined to share the Fate of the Day with him. Like two Lions on the Plains of Lybia encompassed by a Troop of Hunters, they dealt Death and Destruction around them; till at last the Duke overpowered by Numbers, concluded a Life of Glory on a well-fought Field. The Earl of Salisbury, covered with Wounds, and unable any longer to wield his Sword,

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was

was taken Prisoner; his bleeding Body being carried to Pontefract, he was immediately beheaded, lamenting the Cruelty of his Fate, that had not permitted him to breathe his last by the Side of his Friend, on the Bed of Honour.

THE Havock ended not here; the young Earl of Rutland (the Duke of York's second Son), then not above twelve Years old, seeing the Event of the Day, endeavoured to escape into the Castle; but was overtaken by Lord Clifford, who inhumanly plunged his Dagger into the defenceless Breast of the lovely Youth. On Account of his tender Years he was accompanied by his Governor, who
threw

threw himself on his Knees before the inexorable Clifford, and used every Intreaty to preserve the young Prince's Life—his Supplications were in vain: Revenge urged Clifford on, and nothing could restrain his Cruelty. His Father Thomas Lord Clifford having been slain at the Battle of St. Alban's, by the Duke of York, this Lord swore he would not leave one Branch of the York Line standing; and he is said to have killed so many of its Adherents that Day with his own Hand, that he was thence forward called the Butcher. As soon as he had dispatched the Son, he returned to the Field of Battle, and seeking out the Body of the Father, cut off his Head,

M 3 crowned

crowned it with a Paper Crown, and fixing it on the Point of his Lance, presented it to the Queen. Margaret viewed it for some Time with a malicious Pleasure, and having expressed her Satisfaction at seeing her avowed Enemy deprived of all his Power, she ordered it to be placed upon the Walls of the City of York.

THUS ~~was~~ the Duke of York bereaved by Death, of a Crown to which he had an undoubted Right—of which his great Qualifications rendered him worthy — and which he seemed to be almost on the Point of possessing. A Lenity that proved the Goodness of his Heart, and made him more deserving

deserving of the Throne, prevented his wading through the innocent Blood of Henry to it. Preceding Ages would have furnished him with many Examples in Support of sanguinary Measures, had Precedent alone been wanting; but a laudable Moderation prompted him rather to suppress his Claims, and wait for a more favourable Opportunity of asserting them, than to prosecute them at the Expence of his Humanity, and owe his Elevation like Henry the Fourth, to Cruelty and Fraud. Violent Proceedings would have been much more warrantable in the Duke of York, as he might have proved a Title to his Pretensions, which neither the De-

ferfs of his Opponents, nor a long uninterrupted Poffeffion, could invalidate. Whilft the Duke lived, the King was treated with the fame Degree of Deference and Refpect, he had received in his moft prosperous Days ; Adminiftration was only transferred from Margaret to the Duke ; and this much more to the Satisfaction of the People, who did not approve of the Queen's arbitrary Conduct. The Duke of York's Forbearance merits the greateft Encomiums ; and as in thofe Days, when Acts of Violence received the Sanction of Custom, he liftened to the Dictates of Humanity, and did not make an improper Ufe of his Power, let his Name be received
by

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by Posterity with Honour, and placed in the Rank of worthy and renowned Princes.

LADY Anne, who had been prevented by the sudden March of her Lover from accompanying him, remained in London. But how shall I paint her Grief when she heard the melancholy Tidings? On a Heart so susceptible of the tender Passions as hers, the Impression must be deep and lasting. Since her Reconciliation with the Duke, she had buried in Oblivion the Cause of her Disgust: His many amiable Qualities overbalanced in her Mind one imprudent and inconsiderate Action, and she restored him to

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that

that Place in her Affection he had so long enjoyed. Judge then, what must be her Feelings on this sudden Stroke. She lamented him with Sincerity, and that she might be able to indulge her Sorrow without Restraint, she retired to a Convent where she renounced all Society, and would not admit the Visits of her dearest Friends. There, were all her Hours embittered by the Remembrance of the Happiness they had enjoyed together — All the Duke's heroic Deeds, in which so oft she had prided herself, and shared in his Glory — every generous or benevolent Action, the Plan of which perhaps she had suggested — every endearing

ing

ing Moment, employed in social Acts of Friendship — now passed in Review before her Eyes, and caused her to feel his Loss with greater Pungency. The lenient Hand of Time alone could give her any Comfort. Happy is it for Mortals, that Grief is only an Exotic in the human Breast, — the Soil does not naturally afford Nutriment for its constant Growth. — Gay blooming Hopes, and ever young Desires (the native Flowerets of the Heart) spring up around, and choak the baneful Weed — the more luxuriant it grows, the quicker its Decay; then Chearfulness spreads its refreshing Verdure over the Soul, and flourishes again.

LORD Warwick's and the Earl of March's Grief for the Loss of their beloved Fathers, was swallowed up in firm Resolves of Fury and Revenge. The latter was in Wales recruiting his Army, which by this Time amounted to Twenty Thousand Men; and he was on the point of marching to the Assistance of his Father, when the News of his Defeat and Death reached him. The Earl of Warwick continued in London for the Defence of so important a Place.

MARGARET elated with her Success at Wakefield, marched towards the Capital, as she did not doubt but that the Citizens, fright-

frightened at the Appearance of her victorious Army, would of their own Accord drive out the Earl of Warwick, and open their Gates on her Approach. His Lordship appeared to be of the same Opinion, since he chose rather to go out and fight the Queen, than stay within the Walls. This he doubtless would not have done before the Arrival of the Earl of March, had he been sure of the City. He was however reinforced by a Body of the Train-bands, as the Citizens could not behold with Indifference the Ravages committed by the Queen's Troops, who assisted her chiefly for the Sake of Plunder, and

and spread Desolation wherever they came.

THE two Armies' met on Bernard's Heath, near St. Alban's. The Battle at first was very fierce on both Sides, but Lord Lovelace who commanded one of the Wings of Warwick's Army, either through Treachery, or for some other Reason, not charging soon enough, Victory declared for the Queen. The Vanquished lost near Three Thousand Men; and the King, whom the Earl had brought with him for the greater Security, fell again into the Hands of his own Party. Lord Warwick did as much as an able General, and a brave Knight, could

could do. He himself covered the Retreat, giving way Step by Step, and by this Means prevented a greater Slaughter: But neither Prudence nor Valour can withstand the Disadvantages that must arise from the Treachery or Neglect of a Person, to whom a Share of the Command is intrusted. Lord Bonville to whose Care the King had been committed, staid with him after the Defeat, on Assurance of Pardon given him by Henry: But Margaret, regardless of her Husband's Promise, ordered the Head of that Nobleman to be immediately struck off. The King, though he wished to preserve his Honour inviolate, yet had not the Power
to

to protect him from his revengeful, and arbitrary Wife.

THE Queen reaped no great Advantage from her late Victory; for when she heard that the Earl of March was at Hand with a very considerable Army, and that he had been joined by the Remainder of those who were lately routed; she thought it not prudent to prosecute her intended Plan, but retired again into the North.

THE Earl of March rejoiced that the Queen voluntarily yielded him the Metropolis, and entered it in Triumph. Being now in the Bloom of Youth, remarkable for the

the Beauty of his Person, for his Bravery, his Activity, his Affability, and every popular Quality, he was received by the Citizens (who for some Years had been attached to the House of York) with the loudest Acclamations, and every Testimony of the sincerest Joy. The Caution wherewith the late Duke had thought fit to proceed, had been so much to his Prejudice, that the Friends of the Earl his Son concluded, that it was absolutely necessary to lay aside all Reserve, and place him at once on the Throne. Pursuant to this Resolution, the Earl of Warwick drew up the Army in St. John's Fields, near the Walls of the City. Then causing the
great

great Concourse of People, that flocked in Consequence of so grand a Sight, to be formed into a Circle, he rode into the Center, and read aloud the Agreement between the King, and the late Duke of York; with the late Act of Parliament, whereby it was ratified. Which done, he told the Citizens, that it was notorious Henry had violated this Agreement, and by that had forfeited, according to the Act of Parliament, his Right to the Crown. Then raising his Voice, the Earl asked his Auditors, whether they would have Henry of Lancaster for their King? The whole Multitude crying No, No; he demanded, whether according to the Agreement just read

read to them, they would have Edward Son of the late Duke of York for their Sovereign, to which all the People replied, with Acclamations that proved their Consent. The natural Eloquence of the Earl of Warwick, his engaging Manners, and great Popularity, insured him Success; and it might with Truth be said, that Edward was principally indebted to him for his Crown. The World was so well convinced of it, that he acquired by it the Title of “the King-maker;” and when we consider his excellent Character, and immense Possessions, we shall not wonder at the Greatness of his Power.

AUTHORS

AUTHORS * strive to outvie each other in sounding forth his Praises. They all agree that he was frank, open and sincere ; that he scorned to say a Thing he did not think, and never made a Promise he did not perform. He was a Man of the nicest Honour in his Behaviour, as well as Sentiments ; a Foe to Vice, a Friend to Virtue, and an Encourager of Merit wherever he found it. A gallant Action could not be done in War, nor a virtuous one in Peace, but he

* The Character of the Earl of Warwick is thus drawn by Monsieur Baudier, Counsellor and Historiographer to Louis the Thirteenth, King of France ; and as from his being a Foreigner, there is no Reason to suppose him partial, we may conclude that it is a just one.

he fought out the Actor, shewed him Marks of his Esteem, and never failed to give him Proofs of his Liberality. He was not more tender of his own, than he was jealous of the Honour of his Country, which no Man loved better, and had shewn so much Regard to it in all his Actions, that the Nation was convinced of his noble and public Spirit. However incredible it may appear, yet it is asserted, that no less than Thirty Thousand Persons daily lived at his Board, in the different Manors and Castles he possessed in England. No Hospitality was ever known to equal his in this Country. These admirable Qualities, supported by
such

such a Conduct and Mode of living, rendered him the Darling of the People.

LORD Warwick having thus procured the People's Approbation of his young Friend, a great Number of Magistrates, Lords, and Bishops were assembled at Baynard's Castle, who ratified this popular Election; and the new King was the next Day proclaimed in London, by the Name of Edward the Fourth.

THUS ended the Reign of Henry the Sixth, which had lasted Thirty-eight Years, commencing with his very Childhood; for in the first Parliament convened after his

his Father's Death, the Queen Mother sat among the Lords with the young King in her Lap. Whilst yet in his Cradle, he was proclaimed King both of France and England, and began his Life with the most splendid Prospects; but they could not secure him from this sad Reverse of Fortune.

END OF THE FIRST VOLUME.

LARRY ANNIE MURPHY

his Father's Day

Monday morning

the young King in his ship

While yet in his Cradle he was

proclaimed King born of James

and England, and a son of the

great the King of the Kings

but they could not see his face

this day of the Kings



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